

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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IT'LL BE A VERY BIG YEAR

BY DAVID JACK

THE 1986 season will be just about the most exciting since National League Soccer hit Australia in 1977.

That is the confident message for AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY readers from Peter Russell, manager of the Olympic Airways National League.

Next weekend, the ball starts rolling and Russell predicts the excitement in Soccer will persist right through to October.

"With so much at stake, I expect every team to go flat out for 90 minutes in every match," he said.

"They are all fighting for their lives. They know a few dropped points here and there could put them out of the National League. And no team wants to be chucked out.

"Competition will be really fierce. There will be no lack of fighting spirit on the field. But we hope we don't see any fights spreading to the spectators. The game can do without that.

"Before next weekend's kick-off, each of the 24 clubs will know what it has to do to qualify for the 1987 competition.

"So they all have set targets and they'll fight like mad to achieve them," added Russell.

The danger is that, with so much at stake, there could be some rough matches with referees working overtime to keep the peace.

In a normal season, life can be difficult for referees but in a year as vital as 1986, they must expect even more trouble from over-robust players.

At least, the clubs know what is expected of them - and not only as far as results are concerned.

They know they must make overdue ground improvements and, thankfully, this is being done.

Apia Leichhardt have given their Lambert Park ground some remedial treatment and Marconi are talking about building a new stand. Sydney Croatia have installed excellent floodlights and will soon be able to boast a modern grandstand.

In Brisbane, Spencer Park is a tribute to hard-working Soccer people who can clearly get things done.

The League is lucky to have Olympic Airways on its side once again.

The Greek airline is providing \$200,000 in sponsorship for the second year running.

So all is looking pretty good.

It would be nice to see the crowds returning in large numbers but that is a headache facing just about every sport.

Attendance graphs go up and down and, with so much at stake this year, it

is reasonable to expect the Soccer graph to show a steady upward curve.

Maybe, too, the fans will want to have another look at some of those Socceroo stars - Alan Davidson, Terry Greedy, John Kosmina, Zarko Odzakov, Graham Jennings, Ken Murphy and the rest - who did Australia proud just a few months ago.

Against Scotland in that vital last qualifying World Cup match in Melbourne, the Australian players turned on a magnificent show.

There will be no worries about falling attendances if that extremely high standard of football is repeated in the potentially explosive 1986 Olympic Airways National League.

CZECH VENUE PARRAMATTA

By JOHN ECONOMOS

THE SOCCEROOS are due to get onto Sydney's ultra-modern Parramatta Stadium next August.

Australia is scheduled to play a three-match series against the 1976 European champions, Czechoslovakia, in the first week of August.

Brian Emery, Executive Director of the ASF, stated:

"We have made applications for two dates to the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust for use of the stadium in the first week of August. This application is now being considered by the Trust."

The highly efficient Czechoslovakia under manager Dr Joe Venglos, previously toured Australia in 1980 when they whitewashed our national team four matches to nil.

The Socceroos then will play a two-legged clash with New Zealand in October. The first leg will be on October 19 in New Zealand, possibly Auckland, with the return leg to

be played in Australia on October 26.

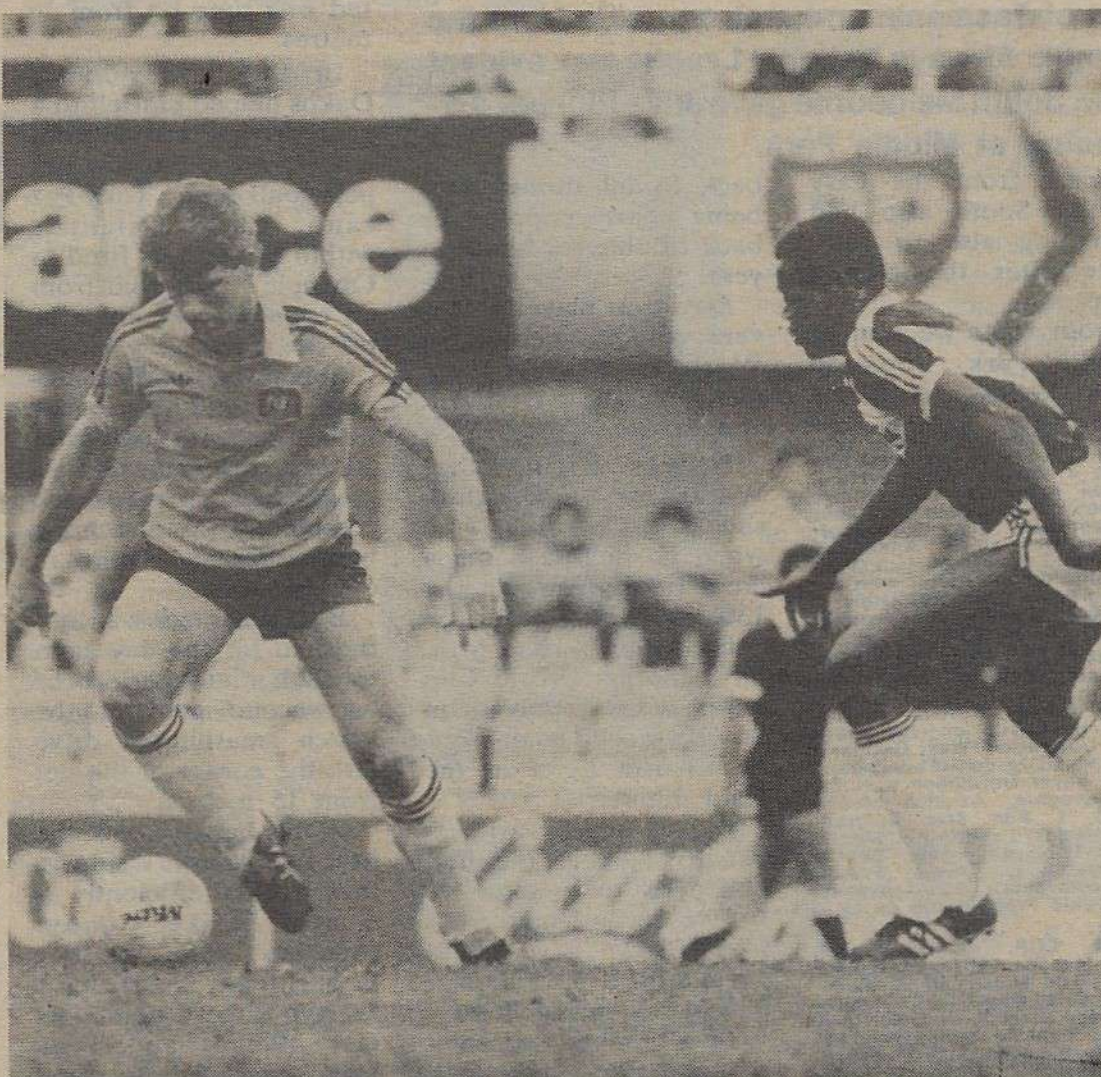
Almost immediately after these Kiwi matches, the Socceroos fly out to China to defend the Ampol Cup.

Emery also stated that three full internationals against China have been finalised during that period.

"We have cabled the Football Associations of both Japan and Hong Kong asking for matches against their national sides whilst our Socceroos are in the area," Emery added.

Australia's World Cup sub-committee was scheduled to meet last Saturday, but cancelled due to the airline's refuellers' strike.

The conference now has been re-scheduled for next Saturday week to discuss in full detail further international fixtures for the Socceroos.



ZARKO ODZAKOV

The Editor

REVELATIONS in this issue of AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY concerning commercial television's attitude to Soccer provide much food for thought.

Soccer lovers, who have to suffer saturation coverage of sports like Rugby League and Australian Rules, are right to demand a fair go for the round ball game.

There is little likelihood that they will get it.

The statement from one TV executive that "Sydney is a Rugby League town" is really quite extraordinary.

If we accept the obvious fact that Rugby League is the biggest and most popular code of football in New South Wales, does it necessarily follow that all other sports should be treated with deplorable disdain?

There are about half a million Soccer players in Australia, with a large chunk of them in NSW.

Commercial TV chooses to pretend they do not exist. Or if those players do exist, there is no need to cater for them on television.

When the Philips Soccer League kicked off in 1977, there were handsome promises from Channel TEN about the sort of cover the new competition would receive via that station.

Let's be honest. The cover, such as it was, left a lot to be desired.

The same channel jumped in to screen the 1981 World Youth Championship, played in Australia, and relegated that most important international series to the late, late, time slot.

More recently, Olympic Games Soccer, by far the most popular sport at the Los Angeles Olympics, was hardly seen on Australian TV.

Last year, during the World Cup qualifying matches, every channel fought to get the Socceroos in front of the cameras.

Frank Arok, John Kosmina, Terry Greedy, and the other big names were sought for interview almost daily. Clearly, Soccer and its personalities were highly saleable commodities.

Are we now expected to believe that, just because Scotland beat Australia in the World Cup, Soccer and its personalities have become "TV disasters?"

Fortunately, Soccer followers are given much better treatment by SBS, although there are many potential viewers who still complain about the picture quality on the ethnic channel.

But SBS has blundered badly with the timing of its new Friday night "Soccerama" offering.

At 6pm on Friday, the ABC puts on an excellent one hour of Soccer from the UK — one of the rare gems of the week for Australian Soccer fans.

It is crazy for SBS to time its Soccerama programme in direct competition to the ABC.

Why split the audience?

It is undeniable that there is a large following for British Soccer in Australia, indeed it has been said that more people are interested in Arsenal, Everton and such teams than in top Australian sides.

We find this sad but we must face up to it.

We do not believe many Soccer folk will switch off Brian Moore in favour of Les Murray.

This is a clash which should never have happened.

If the programme planners at SBS cannot come up with a more suitable time slot, we fear for the future of their Soccerama.

NANDA CUP SCORES

NEWCASTLE 2 (R Maier 5 Ingham) b BELMONT-SWANSEA 1 (P Winsor) at Adamstown Sports Ground.
HEIDELBERG 2 (Seledis Dellglannis) b PRESTON 1 (Lane) at Olympic Park. Crowd: 6000.
MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Ward) b BRUNSWICK 0 at Olympic Park. Crowd: 6000.
SOUTH MELBOURNE 5 (D Brown 3 A Davidson C Egan) b JUVENUS PIONEER (Tas) 1 (S Kannegieser) at Middle Park. Crowd: 5000.
ST GEORGE 2 (C Moffit Z Beluzic) b Marconi 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 3500.
WOLLONGONG 3 (R Giraldo S Rivero J Kirwan op) b CANTERBURY 2 (S Mantzle 2) at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 520.
BLACKTOWN 6 (T Brennan 2 B Thornwaite 2 J Carroll 2) b WEST WODEN JUVENUS 0 at Toongabbie. Crowd: 200.
SYDNEY CITY 3 (F Farina J Kosmina G Gomez) b SYDNEY CROATIA 0 at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 3578.
BRISBANE CITY 2 (G Bromfield K Cooper) b BRISBANE LIONS 1 (D Wright) at Spencer Park. Crowd: 1382.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 6 (C Kalantzis 2 M Soper 2 S Johnston T Dakos) b LEICHHARDT 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 3500.
FOOTSCRAY 1 (B Lazopoulos) b SUNSHINE 1 (N Mitten) on penalties 9-8 after extra time at Middle Park. Crowd: 5000.
ADELAIDE CITY 1 (J Mullen) b STERLING MACEDONIA 1 (J Hunter) on penalties 6-5 after extra time at Macedon Park. Perth. Crowd: 2500.
MELITA v IPSWICH UNITED at Melita - deferred.

SYD CITY ARE TOO SLICK

BY FRANK COLETTA

SYDNEY CROATIA, handicapped by the loss of their organiser and captain-coach, Vedran Rozic were easily accounted for 3-0 by Sydney City in the 1st round of the Nanda Cup at the Croatian Sports Centre.

City proved that they are a champion side by hitting Croatia when they were at their most vulnerable.

Already without regulars David Rezo and Marijan Kovacic, Croatia lost their "general" in Rozic after half an hour with a recurrence of a strain in his lower back.

Sydney City struck almost immediately after his departure when Soccer-o Frank Farina made a fine run down the flank following a through ball by Jean-Paul De Marigny.

Farina took the ball into his stride, cut outside the last defender and drilled a left foot shot past

Croatia's Greg Woodhouse.

Four minutes before half-time Farina ran onto a deft ball from Ian Souness, then swung over a perfect cross that his skipper John Kosmina stooped to head in.

In the 44th minute the third and decisive goal was put away by utility player Gerry Gomez.

Joe Watson swung over a corner that Gomez was able to head in unchallenged.

Croatia lost their way when star midfielder Zarko Odzakovic was forced to take over as sweeper and flanker Zeljko Jurin was replaced at half-time.

ROSEBUDS SURVIVE

Despite playing most of the match with ten men Newcastle Rosebud United managed to defeat Northern Federation premiers Belmont-Swansea 2-1 in their first round Nanda Cup match at Adamstown.

BY NEIL JAMESON

The Bellswans looked to have an excellent chance of upsetting Rosebud after fullback Ross Milosevic received his second card and his marching orders in the 36th minute.

At that stage the match was scoreless but instead of Belmont taking advantage, it was Newcastle who moved up a gear and played the more adventurous football.

Derek Todd, who had replaced the injured Paul Cabtree, galvanised the Rosebud attack and Newcastle deservedly went ahead in the 50th minute when Ralph Maier

converted from the penalty spot.

Belmont recognised they had to push an extra man into attack but they inexplicably failed to capitalise on the advantage.

With ten minutes remaining John Cavanagh made a determined foray down the left wing before cutting a perfect cross into the penalty area. Sean Ingham timed his run to perfection and slammed the ball into the net.

Peter Winsor, last season's leading scorer, notched Belmont's goal four minutes from time but it came too late to enable the first division side to stage a storming finish.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC SWAMPED APPIA

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

A faster, fitter and far more experienced Sydney Olympic, completely swamped a young, mainly inexperienced Appia-Leichhardt 6-0 in Round 1 of the Nanda Soccer Cup at the St George Stadium.

Appia managed to hold Olympic to a 1-0 scoreline in the first session after Olympic's utility man, Stuart Johnston, scored a fine goal in the 13th minute. Midfielder Vicente Estavillo broke Appia's

offside trap, passed to his captain Peter Raskopoulos who in turn set up Johnston to score from six metres.

Olympic's Scottish striker signed from Melbourne,

Stuart Stevenson, missed with a glorious opportunity in the 42nd minute to make it 2-0.

Appia's only threat on goal was in the fifth minute when young Louis Dounis connected with a 15 metre volley that forced Olympic's giant goalkeeper Gary Meier to hastily tip over the crossbar for a corner.

With the half-time scoreline 1-0 in favour of Olympic, Appia held high hopes to snatch the match in the second session, but it was not to be.

The second half saw Olympic slip into top gear and cruise in another five goals that had Appia scampering for cover.

The floodgates opened up in the 62nd minute when sweeper, Tony Dakos, set up Marshall Soper to score from centre-box with a neat pivoted first time hit from 10 metres.

In the 66th minute, Dakos helped himself to a goal, driving the ball from a sharp angle into the net past goalkeeper, Tony Pezzano. Chris Kalantzis within 60 seconds fired in Olympic's fifth goal from an even sharper angle in off the post.

Soper, in the 70th minute, credited his account with a second goal from 10 metres leaving Appia's goalkeeper, Tony Pezzano completely dazed with the bombardment raining in on his goal.

But Kalantzis was not finished for the day as in the 77th minute, he scored his second goal of the match smashing a drive into the corner of the net from 15 metres.

It was hard to pick the best of Olympic's side as they worked efficiently as a unit. Mike Coady, together with another Englishman, right back Martyn Rogers, defenders Gary Phillips and Tony Dakos were free to come forward on many occasions to assist the attack.

STERLING SHOW BY WA SIDE

BY JAMES DOUGLAS

WEST AUSTRALIAN Soccer so often cruelly ignored by the other States, went close to striking a telling blow for recognition in the Nanda Cup game against Adelaide City.

The South Australians, rated by their admirers an outside chance to win the National League this year, had to rely on a penalty shoot-out to scrape through against Sterling Macedonia.

Adelaide City converted all their five penalties while Sterling failed with one, taken by John Hunter.

Strangely enough, Hunter had been Sterling's only goalscorer during the opening 90 minutes when he equalised 13 minutes from the end after Adelaide City had taken the lead in the ninth minute.

The first half belonged to the visiting SA side, well organised in midfield by Adrian Santrac.

John Alavakis, the WA

team's goalkeeper was "debited" with Adelaide's first goal when he could not hold a centre and Joe Mullen ran on to the loose ball to score.

Scotsman John Hunter was switched from defence to attack and added fire to Sterling's raids — almost scoring a surprise winning goal after 89 minutes.

So the game went into extra time, which was scoreless, and the penalty kick contest.

Playing conditions were far from ideal, the heat causing several players to require treatment — mainly for cramp.

But Sterling Macedonia were a good advertisement for improving Soccer standards in the West.

REF IS PUNCHED

AT MIDDLE PARK, Footscray beat Sunshine George Cross in the Nanda Cup on penalties in a match highlighted by a pitch invasion by one irate spectator.

During extra-time, with the score 1-1, this person jumped the fence and allegedly punched referee Bernie Upjohn on the back of the head.

Upjohn was sent sprawling and the offender was removed by police.

The incident happened when Footscray goalkeeper Zoran Nikitovic twice saved a penalty kick but, each time, the kick had to be retaken because Nikitovic moved.

The penalty taker Don Maclaren took the kick for a third time and once again Nikitovic saved!

It was a match full of incident, although not the sort of incident the game really needs.

George Cross full-back John Campbell was sent off near the end and was followed by Footscray's Vlado Stosic three minutes later.

Footscray were in charge of the match for most of the time and deserved to go into a 1-0 lead after 40 minutes when Bill Lazopoulos headed in.

Another header, 10 minutes before full-time, gave Noel Mitten the equalising goal for George Cross and with it, extra-time and penalties.

The penalties were scored by each team until the score reached 8-8 but then Mark Lennon failed with one for George Cross.



SOCCER BEAUTY — Is Lotto Sports model Celeste Martini from Italy. This 19-year-old eye-catcher is modelling the Lotto sweatshirt and women's shorts.

SOCCER? IT'S A DISASTER ON THE BOX

DAVID HILL, executive producer of Channel Nine TV Sport, describes Soccer on television as "a ratings disaster!"

BY RAY GATT

In an extraordinarily frank assessment, Hill added: "One of the stations tried it several years ago and it was a disaster. It just didn't rate, not even on SBS."

"Even the overseas stuff doesn't rate. Even the World Cup."

"The only game that does any good is the English FA Cup Final and that costs an arm and a leg to get."

The Channel Nine executive producer is not just another anti-Soccer character. Far from it. He admits to being disappointed with the situation. "I love Soccer," he said. "I am a qualified referee."

"But we have to face facts. We are a League

town and have to give the people what they want.

"We watched with interest how SBS would fare when they first got involved in Soccer. I thought, 'good, maybe the game will kick on a bit,' but it hasn't and no-one is interested."

Yet it seems no time since thousands WERE interested in World Cup heroes like Greedy, Davidson, Mitchell and the rest.

Harry Potter, sports editor of Channel TEN, said it was a matter of time and priorities.

"We are a League station but that does not mean we go out of our way to give Soccer a bad time," he said. "It is all a matter of priority."

Channel Seven's Rick Jamison, the executive sports director, said the Sports World programme on a Sunday used to give a fairly extensive coverage of the local Soccer com-

petition.

"But we found we were giving week-old coverage of matches because every second week there was

only one game on a Saturday and that was often at Newcastle," he said.

"We said to the Soccer people that if they could programme a Sydney game on a Saturday then we would provide a cover of it the following day."

Kevin Berry, sports director of the ABC, said there was no conspiracy against Soccer at the ABC.

Last year Channel 2 provided regular highlights of matches in its Sunday night news bulletins.

SBS's Les Murray said the sport rated fairly well at the station.

"The World of Soccer programme is second only to our weekly news programme, while the local



TERRY GREEDY

AN UPSET WIN FOR SAINTS OVER MARCONI

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ST GEORGE caused a shock upset in the 1986 Nanda Soccer Cup when they defeated a much better organised Marconi 2-0 to advance into Round 2 at the St George Stadium.

Marconi who used the ball well, just could not penetrate the St George defence lines.

But Marconi should have hit the lead as early as the very first minute, when midfielder, Ian Gray, struck the post with his 14 metre shot.

On the half hour, Saints' tall striker, Roy Cotton, went perilously close to scoring when his strong header flashed just wide of the target.

Spiteful tackles crept into the match in the first session forcing Newcastle

referee, Rob Davies to issue yellow cards to Marconi's Robbie Wheatley and St George men, Mike O'Shea, Peter Petkovski and Craig Moffitt.

Marconi created good scoring chances but also found Saints' goalkeeper, Mike Gibson, a big obstacle.

The first session ended scoreless, but the Saints gradually began to take control in the second half.

Saints' giant 18 year old midfielder, Moffit, despite suffering a severely gashed right eyebrow, was rewarded for his courage with a fine goal.

In the 71st minute, Saints were awarded a free-kick from 25 metres, taken by young midfielder, Pedro Ricoy. Ricoy whipped his kick to the back post when Moffit climbed high to nod into the Marconi net.

Six minutes later, Saints went further ahead when substitute striker, Zoran Beluzic, scored.

Roy Cotton, ducked and weaved his way past Marconi defenders on the right flank to clip in a neat cross. Beluzic did not waste Cotton's fine work, meeting the cross with an accurate header into the net.

St George's back-four of David Skeen, Mike O'Shea, David Ratcliffe and Robbie O'Shea, stood up firmly to Marconi's constant coming forward, with goalkeeper Gibson looking safe as a bank.

Marconi's back four of Paul Carter, Steve Calderan, Robbie Wheatley and Less Sterrey, repeatedly pushed upfield in an attempt to salvage the match but to no avail.

Little Marconi striker, David Lowe, came in for some torrid tackling from St George as tempers flared.

Best for Saints were Mike Gibson, Craig Moffit and David Skeen, whilst Marconi was best served by Lowe, Craig Mason and Peter Tredinick.

BRISBANE CITY LAST MINUTE VICTORY

BY GREG RUSSELL

A controversial last-minute penalty decided the Nanda Cup local derby clash between Brisbane City and Lions at Spencer Park.

City who had not beaten Lions since August 1984 and had lost all five clashes against their rivals since won the tie 2-1.

The match had been 1-1 at the break and seemed destined for extra-time when with just 28 seconds of normal time remaining Lions midfielder Richard Basingthwaite brought down City striker Alan Reis.

The decision by new FIFA badge referee Bill Monteverde brought howls of protest from the

Lions players, official and supporters, it was to say the least a borderline decision as Basingthwaite emerged with the ball.

City's new Irish striker Kieran Cooper expertly put away the penalty to put his club on the road to what could be their third Cup win.

The expected accusations flew in the Lions dressing room afterwards with coach Gordon Arrowsmith calling for neutral referees, something not uncommon in Brisbane in recent years.

The controversy aside Lions really had themselves to blame and could have easily wrapped up their passage to the next round had they put away their chances.

After City's Phil White had missed an open goal after just two minutes Lions Danny Wright opened the scoring in the 11th minute with a fierce rocket-like shot. City's Garry Bromfield equalised two minutes from half-time with a run down the left and let loose an angled shot which was helped into the net by Reis.

But the flashes of good football were marred by constant wild play.

S o c c e r segment is just behind the World programme," he said.

SBS will provide excellent viewing during the season.

Murray will host programmes (two of which involve the National League) on Fridays, Sundays and Mondays during the season.

On Fridays, Murray, with a special guest each week, will preview the weekend matches as well as provide profiles on players. It will be known as Soccerama (6pm-6.30pm).

At 10.30pm on a Sunday the station will give a full 90-minute replay of the match of the round.

On Mondays from 6-7pm SBS will give a complete rundown of the weekend games, including highlights of many of the matches.

TEAMS WANTED!

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THE GLOVES ARE OFF

LEAGUE CROWD TROUBLE GIVEN BLIND EYE BY DAILY PRESS

IT was interesting to see how the press handled the spectator problems at Seiffert Oval after the Balmain v Canberra Rugby League game.

Evidently at the end of the game when the children ran on to the field to congratulate the players, an irate Canberra supporter ran on and tried to attack the referee.

Players from Balmain formed a protective barrier to shepherd the ref. from the ground.

Apart from a few paragraphs to lead off the match review in one of the afternoon papers, nothing has been mentioned about the crowd disturbance.

Imagine a similar incident in Soccer. Headlines would be plastered over the papers telling all and sundry of further hooliganism and violence at a Soccer game.

No doubt past trouble such as the Pratten Park disturbance would have been resurrected. It seems that every occasion that arises where Soccer may be discredited in the eyes of the public is highlighted rather than left to pass unnoticed.

Yet when similar crowd trouble occurs in League we find it barely rates a mention. So much for the impartiality of the press.

It would be interesting to see the effects on the game if similar press coverage as that which is afforded Rugby League was given to Soccer.

What a shame Sydney Croatia picked last Sunday week to turn in a performance well below their usual high standard. The Interstate Final gave people the opportunity to compare the standard of the two divisions.

And the 3-1 scoreline certainly gave the Melbourne folk, who keep telling us they have teams and players of superior standard to those in Sydney, fresh ammunition.

No doubt it will be used extensively in the press in Victoria.

The pressure to perform seemed to get to the Sydney team and they were unable to reproduce the excellent form they displayed throughout the Ampol Cup.

They came so close to winning the NSL competition last year before stumbling at the last hurdle.

Being able to win the games that count only comes through experiencing the pressure which is associated with important games and learning to overcome such pressure.

Few teams are able to consistently win games of such importance. The successful records of Liverpool in England and Sydney City in our National League suggests they have mastered the art of performing under pressure.

By Terry Greedy
Australia's World Cup Goalkeeper

St George supporters needn't get carried away with the team's 4-1 win over Sydney City in the pre-season competition.

I'm sure the Slickers will be more competitive when they get their regulars back in the competition.

Having said that, it is certainly a great psychological boost to get such a resounding win against the team most other clubs use as a yardstick when assessing their chances for the competition.

All four goals scored were excellent, especially Tony Caban's effort from 30 metres. It really was a dream goal and according to Cabs he usually falls out of bed just as the ball is about to cross the line!

After the header he missed from two metres



MIKE GIBSON

just after he came on, a few people on the bench thought he may have been sleep walking.

The inability to convert chances we have been creating has been the biggest worry. Hopefully



things are beginning to change.

After cracking a rib against Canterbury I have been forced to watch the last couple of games while Mike Gibson took over between the sticks.

He has been looking very safe and his performances are going to make it difficult for me to retain the number one spot when the season starts. I hope "the gloves are not off" for much longer.

Great to see the coverage set down by Channel SBS for the coming season. Thankfully there is one station giving Soccer a fair go. Also radio 2GB is to be congratulated for including a Soccer segment in its new sports programme.

It was good to see Andy Paschalidis in front of the camera. Don't be surprised to see him featured in an Ashley and Martin ad in the near future. What a mane of hair. (Kenny Murphy eat your heart out.)

See you next week

Terry Greedy

CARTER AIMS FOR NATIONAL TEAM

MARCONI's right full back and 1985 player of the year Paul Carter is determined to make this the year to force his way into the Socceroo squad and secure a position for himself in the team for the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"Of course we have to get past New Zealand and Israel first, but I'm convinced that we now have a psychological advantage over both of them and Australia will qualify for the 1988 Olympic finals," a confident Carter predicted.

"Playing for my country in the Olympic Games would be an honour that I'll always cherish. That above all else, is my biggest objective."

Carter has been on the fringe of Socceroo selection for a couple of years and made his only senior appearance in the green and gold last September when he replaced Marconi teammate Ian Gray in the final five minutes of the match against China in Canberra.

His outstanding performances for Marconi throughout the season surely warranted more than that and it's still hard to understand how he was overlooked when Australia was struggling to fill the right back position during Alan Davidson's absence overseas.

Davidson's return to South Melbourne doesn't worry Carter greatly.

"If I can improve further on last year I'm bound to get my chance," is how he summed up the situation.

Les Scheinflug has no doubts about Carter's Socceroo prospects.

"This lad is one of the most determined and dedicated players that I have ever worked with," Scheinflug said, "He just keeps on getting better and believe me we have not yet seen the best of him."

Scheinflug sees Carter as one of his key players in Marconi's title challenge this year.

His strength in defence is supplemented by his powerful runs on the right

flank which often sets up chances for his team mates or end up with himself getting the occasional goal.

His superb equaliser in the semi final against Olympic last year typifies Carter's attacking ability and it is this that makes him so valuable to his team. Carter in turn, does not intend to let his boss down.

Winning the championship with Marconi is his other burning ambition and he sees this season as the best opportunity. His confidence is explained this way:

"Marconi has been building this team for three years and we have now reached a stage where we will be mighty difficult to stop. Obviously Croatia, Olympic and Sydney City are also just as confident but I'm convinced that this is our year."

If forced to choose between winning the first past the post championship or the grand final, Carter concedes that winning the grand final carries more glamour with the fans.

"But as a professional, I would prefer to win the championship and prove our consistency over a full season," he declares.

As a 14 year old playing for Auburn juniors, Carter used to travel to Bossley Park on Sundays to watch Marconi in action.

The fact that it meant a 2½ hour trip each way, catching two buses and two trains from his Picnic Point home, it didn't deter him. That was the sort of dedication which finally took him to Marconi after making his senior debut with Auburn in the State League as a 16 year old.

One of his teammates there was Robbie Slater and they have remained firm friends ever since. Carter was naturally dis-

appointed when Slater turned down Marconi's offer a few weeks ago and opted to join Blacktown instead.

"Robbie would have been great for our team," Carter said, "But I suppose he knows what he's doing. I hope the move works out for him."

Auburn's coach at the time was Vic Dalglish and he arranged a trial for Carter with Willie Wallace at APIA. Wallace snapped up the young full back and gave him his first chance in the NSL during the 1981 season, just after Carter turned 17.

When Scheinflug returned to Marconi at the beginning of 1984 and started the task of rebuilding his team, the first signing he made was that of Carter, paying APIA \$13,500 for his transfer.

That was a move that neither of them ever regretted. Since his marriage last November, Paul and his 22 year old wife Tracy have bought a home unit just up the road from the St George club in Mortdale.

But that's no indication that he has any intentions of leaving Marconi.

Carter's only immediate plans are to win a regular place with Frank Arok's Socceroos and to help Scheinflug bring the championship to Bossley Park.

After that, Carter admits to having an interest in looking at the professional set up in Europe but feels that he has left it too late to try his luck overseas.

If ever the opportunity presents itself he would naturally jump at it, but for now, his biggest ambition is to represent Australia at the 1988 Olympics. If consistency, dedication and determination count for anything, Carter is a certainty to get there.

— Frank Scicluna.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS SOCCER FEDERATION UNDER 19

OFFICIALS

Chapman Bonner	Qld	Tour Leader	President ASSF
Kevin James	W.A.	Manager	Secretary ASSF
Chris James	NSW	Coach	Sydney Croatia
Duncan Summers	Tas	Coach	NSL U19 Side
			University Youth Side, Hobart

1. Antoine Avelino	NSW	Goalkeeper	Top class G/K with NSW experience. Training with Aberdeen in Scotland.
2. Scott Grant	NSW	Defender	All round sportsman.
3. Alan Armstrong	WA	Defender	Hard tackling defender. Has lots of potential.
4. Kurt Leitner	ACT	Defender	Former AIS player. State representative.
5. David Hunter	Qld	Defender	Regular with B. Lions in National League.
6. Brian Ellem	NSW	Midfield	Extensive NSW and State League experience.
10. Ernie Tapai	Vic	Midfield	Regular in National League.
14. Colin Junna	Qld	Midfield	Hard working midfield player.
15. Paul Peterson	Qld	Midfield	Utility player with lots of state experience.
7. Paul Quarmby	NSW	Defender	Regular NSW player — Going to UK to train.
8. Markus Bouke	WA	Striker	Busting striker. Born in W. Germany.
11. Scott Watson	NSW	Striker	Skillful player. Regular in N.Y.L.
13. Scott Ollerenshaw	NSW	Midfield	Regular NSW rep. Has utility value.
12. John Williams	SA	Midfield	Skillful midfielder with top S.A. State League side.
9. Richard le Szczynski	Tas	Striker	Fast and powerful. Regular in State Lge.
16. Peter Groenwoud	Tas	Goalkeeper	Top prospect. Very agile.

A.S.S.F. U/19 DETAILS

(Recently returned from UK tour)

BACKGROUND: The National Schools Soccer Federation has been conducting National Schools Championship since 1975. At each championship an Australian Schools side is chosen. However, over the years, the sides chosen have not had a regular programme of representation and international fixtures. Many International and National League players have been chosen in past Australian School sides. It is clear that a regular programme of fixtures will improve the credibility of the Australian Schools Soccer Federation.

In 1978 an Australian Schools side toured Canada and the USA. Despite this successful tour there have been no internationals to date. The Australian Soccer Federation feels that regular internationals are essential — the ASF recognises the role and contribution of Schools Soccer in the development of youth players and recognises that one of the most desirable aspects of the side is that the competition for places is open to all secondary school students. Therefore players who may miss selection in the National Youth side still have the opportunity for top class representative soccer.

The Australian Schools Soccer Federation is now embarking on a three year plan to establish regular representative games and internationals.



PAUL CARTER scores THAT goal in the semi-final against Sydney Olympic last year.

A FEW CLANGERS FROM MOTSON AND HIS MATES

NOW that Soccer is back on the TV in England, the London "Sunday Mirror" has marked the occasion by talking to ace commentator John Motson about some embarrassing moments with the microphone.

Motson sportingly allowed the paper to peep at his own collection of clangers — and publish them.

ASW hopes this give readers a few giggles.

Let John Motson himself, kick off the list:—

JOHN MOTSON'S own favourite faux pas: "For the benefit of those watching in black and white, Spurs are in the yellow shirts."

MOTSON again: "That was Crooks (a coloured footballer) doing the spade-work for Archibald."

MOTSON on Grandstand: "We've had a boring goal-less draw here. And by the way, the half-time was nil-nil."

BRIAN MOORE of ITV: "It's been a turbulent year for Trevor Brooking — especially the last 12 months."

PETER JONES on Radio 2: "It's Ipswich 0, Liverpool 2, and if it stays like that, you have to fancy Liverpool to win it!"

BRYON BUTLER on the FA Cup draw on radio: "Spurs had not been drawn outside London for five years, but their luck had to turn some time — they've been drawn away to Chelsea!"

BRIAN MOORE: "When Forest took the

lead after 45 seconds, it was totally against the run of play."

RADIO

DAVID COLEMAN: "Ron Greenwood refuses to criticise individuals. He's going to take all the blame himself."

COLEMAN again: "Don't tell those just coming in what the result was, but here's another look at Italy's winning goal."

DES LYNAM: "We'll have more football in a moment. But first let's see the goals from the Scottish League Cup Final."

BOBBY GOUL, when managing Coventry, on TV: "We're lucky with the fixtures this year, because Christmas falls on Christmas Day."

JOHN BOND, on transfer-talk while managing Manchester City: "I've got plenty of irons in the fire, but I'm keeping them close to my chest."

KEVIN KEEGAN on radio: "My father was a miner. He worked down a mine."

DAVID COLEMAN on TV athletics: "Watch the Africans in this race. They are the ones with the white tops and the black bottoms."

DAVID COLEMAN on a field for a Women's 400 metres: "Three Russians, two East Germans, a

Pole and a Frenchman." RON PICKERING at the Olympics: "We can't see the runners yet, but it's clear that the Norwegian has opened up quite a lead."

STEWART STOREY: "This Chinese high-jumper definitely has a chink in his armour."

DAVID VINE: "It's not easy to get a snooker with just one ball on the table."

DENTIST

DAVID VINE again: "I'm speaking from the deserted Crucible Theatre, which is virtually empty."

DAVID VINE'S hat-trick: "Here we are in the

Holy Land of Israel a real Mecca for tourists."

ANNE JONES on tennis: "When Martina (Navratilova) is tense, it helps her to relax."

DAN MASKELL, doyen of Wimbledon: "She comes from a tennis-playing family. In fact her father's a dentist."

HARRY CARPENTER, BBC's Mr Boxing: "Born in Italy, all his fights have been in his native New York."

REG GUTTERIDGE, ITV's Mr Boxing: "The crowd got their first glimpse of Hagler's famous shaven head as he entered the arena with the

hood of his dressing gown pulled right up."

MURRAY WALKER, maestro of motor racing: "I make no apologies for the absence of 10 top-class drivers from this race. In fact I'm sorry they are not here."

MURRAY WALKER on lap two: "This race is also live on Radio 2, just in case there's anyone watching who doesn't have a television set."

Lady and gentlemen, thanks for those isolated moments when you did open your mouth, put your foot in it, and left a nation laughing. But thanks even more for all the millions of commentaries containing no clangers.



KEVIN KEEGAN

HAJDUK SPLIT AT MARCONI

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

ALL true Soccer fans who yearn for the days when the game was played at it's entertaining best must make a point of being at the Marconi Stadium on Wednesday night, April 2 for what promises to be a great night of football nostalgia.

In a tour that has been organised by the local Hajduk club, some of the greatest names in Yugoslav football over the last 15 years will play an exhibition match against Marconi. One of Europe's leading clubs, Hajduk Split fielded it's best ever team during the 1970's, an era when the championship was won on four occasions and the cup no less than six times.

The club's triumphs in those years made it one of the classiest teams in Europe being 1971 champions, 1972 Cup winners, 1974 champions and Cup winners, 1975 again champions and cup winners, 1976 Cup winners, 1977 Cup winners and 1979 champions. This surely must be a record that few clubs can match.

Most of the players making up that great side have now got together under the banner of Hajduk 1970-80 All Stars for the purpose of playing exhibitions matches in Europe and Asia. This visit to Sydney is the team's first ever in Australia and fans can look forward to seeing a brand of football rarely seen in this country.

Some of the players making the tour have been household names in European Soccer.

They will be led by 33 year old Ivan Surjak who represented Yugoslavia 54 times and was captain for many years including the 1982 World cup finals in Spain. After playing 550 matches for Hajduk Split, Surjak moved to Italy where he joined Udinese before playing two seasons in France with Paris St Germaine.

He was regarded as one

of Europe's most elegant skilful wingers during the seventies and early eighties.

Another Yugoslav international, defender Ivan Buljanc played 402 matches for Hajduk and 60 for his country, including the 1974 World Cup finals. He too eventually moved overseas and played with Hamburg in West Germany for a number of years.

Central defender Dragoslav Holcer also spent four years in Germany with Stuttgart after representing Yugoslavia in 52 internationals and making 419 appearances for Hajduk.

Other Yugoslav internationals making this tour include Sime Luketin, Radomir Vukcevic, Vinko Cezzi, Zvonko Bego and Ivica Hlenovnjak. All of these players played in excess of 400 league matches in Yugoslavia with the club.

The rest of the touring party consists of long serving players Ivo Bego, Ante Ivkovic, Marin Lemesic, Micun Jovanic, Marin Kovacic and Sinisa Fulgozi. The All Stars coach is another former Hajduk player, Pero Nadoleza who played 460 matches in the Yugoslavian league.

Les Scheinflug welcomes the opportunity and feels that his players will benefit greatly from such a game.

This is an occasion when winning or losing doesn't really matter all that much, the one certainty however is that the biggest winners will be the fans who venture out to Bossley Park to watch what is sure to be a wonderful exhibition of class football.

INTER MONARO WON'T LET HOCKING PLAY

MICHAEL HOCKING, the former Inter Monaro ace goalkeeper, is a bitter, disappointed and angry man.

His studies will force him to go overseas this year but, Inter Monaro refused to clear him.

Before leaving for Europe in June, he hoped to play for the Lavington Soccer club as he felt he should spend his last six months in his home town, Albury.

I've interviewed his father Eric and Michael, who told me that officials of Monaro refused his pleas to release him and said: "If you don't play for us you will not play for anybody else."

I am stunned by the attitude of the Monaro officials.

We here in the Border

District do everything in our power to assist and help promising Soccer players further their careers and under no circumstances would we "block" a player to play for a club he selects, especially not under Michael's circumstances.

Hocking contributed a great extent to Monaro's success last season, their first in the NSL and was several times voted best afield.

Late last year, Hocking signed for another two years with Monaro but, having completed his degree in Canberra, he was offered the opportunity to further his studies over-

seas.

He wrote to the club explaining that he would be unavailable this season, as he expected to have to leave early June and he felt it would not be fair to the club for such a short time. Also, as his home is in Albury, it was better financially for him to live at home and work locally until his departure.

Monaro reacted most unfavourably to his decision and contacted him several times in an effort to persuade him to change his mind.

When Hocking still declined to play, the club stated that if he didn't play for them, he would not play for anyone.

Lavington president Brian McBurnie has contacted Inter Monaro several times but, the club still

refuses permission for Hocking to play. "This is difficult to understand as the local competition is an amateur one," he said.

The policy of the Albury — Wodonga Soccer Association and the Lavington Soccer club is to further the code and assist talented players to improve their Soccer careers.

It is very discouraging and beyond my comprehension that Monaro adopted this attitude which could only be described as bad sportsmanship.

Michael was loyal and gave his body and soul to Monaro for three years.

Monaro officials put a bad taste in many Soccer fans mouths with their attitude.

— FRANK FINLAY

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CHIT CHAT

CANBERRA CITY's defence has a dad's club to look after the young fellas. 'Keeper Anthony Franken, left-back Peter Mazis and utility defender Jason Dunn, all youngsters, are giving heaps to Paul Ontong, Peter Burke and Steve Bryant.

Ontong has been a daddy for two or three years, but the arrival of Mitchell Burke on February 18 and Daniel Steve Bryant on March 7 has suddenly swollen the ranks of the Daddio's club.

Incidentally, when asked how he was enjoying his pre-season switch to sweeper, Bryant quipped: "I love it. It's the daddy's position, isn't it?"

■ ■ ■

QUEENSLAND Soccer Federation officials are still chuckling over comments by ASW South Australian correspondent Vic Migliaccio in his recent report of the State's successful tour of India.

The QSF people point out that SA is not on its own in promoting State football as Queensland has been playing interstate Soccer regularly since the State revived its annual challenge with NSW four years ago.

They question his claim that South Australia is "the best state team in the country," after losing only 3-1 to a NSW side which boasted six Socceroos who played Scotland. Queensland toured Fiji and won two of its three games including a victory over the full Fiji national team.

As far as accepting SA's challenge to play the other States is concerned, perhaps next year. The Maroons calendar already is full. Queensland plays NSW on May 11 then embarks on a tour to Papua New Guinea.

■ ■ ■

DOWN in "Weet-Bix" country there has been a change. The former Cooranbong Bears, who were grand finalists in last year's Suburban League have moved a couple of miles east and joined forces with the Dora Creek Workers Club.

The driving force behind the move is local accountant and money adviser John Bellchambers, who has gained more degrees than found on a compass. The Workers Club president is Ray Poole, who was a more than average player on the South Coast some years ago.

They hope to win the Suburban League A Division this year and strike out for a place in the 1997 Fifth Division.



ANTHONY FRANKEN

COACH John Fleming of Wollongong is bubbling with enthusiasm over utility player Robert Giraldi this season.

Giraldi makes his National League debut against Marconi on Sunday but he has already proved Fleming's most valued player.

This season he has played in midfield and switched back to sweeper to cover for the injured Scott Dickson.

Just for a change, he was used as a striker in the final trial against Penrith City and scored four goals.

"Pity I can't find two or three more like him," Fleming said after the Penrith game.

Giraldi played under Fleming at Fairy Meadow last season and has the ability and dedication to make a big success of his first year in the big time.

■ ■ ■

SYDNEY OLYMPIC tonight will hold a special function to honour some of the past greats of Pan Hellenic.

Among the players invited are stalwarts George Gengou, Sot Patrinos, Brian Smith, Charles Perkins, Comino Omeros and Jimmy Hantzis.

The function will be held at the Sydney Greek nightclub, Zorba's in Kensington and the special guest will be the world's most famous and best loved Hungarian footballer, Ferenc Puskas.

Special presentations will be made at the dinner.

Old Pan Hellenic supporters interested in going, should contact Sydney Olympic's Tom Doumanis for tickets.

LES MURRAY, SBS's Soccer presenter, is making a special documentary that will shatter the beliefs of all Soccer lovers.

Soccer is a democratic game on the pitch but Les will prove this is not so off the pitch.

The show will go to air sometime in April and will be in two parts of 60 minutes each. It will highlight much that went on during Australia's World Cup campaign but which we didn't see or hear.

The super Soccer channel will disclose it all and FIFA could well be embarrassed.

Congratulations Les Murray.

■ ■ ■

GUIDO CICINELLI, a popular member of Sydney's Italian media, was highly elated last Monday when his team AS Roma barrelling champions Juventus 3 nil.

"Don't worry about Roma. They will take the Italian championship away from Juve," promised a confident Guido.

■ ■ ■

FULL MARKS to Sydney City for spreading the Soccer gospel in the bush.

Slickers' first match in this year's Olympic Airways National League will be at Woy Woy Oval on the central coast of NSW.

That's where they play Newcastle Rosebud next Saturday.

It's an ideal match to take there because it will save Newcastle a lot of travelling time.

A few years ago, Sydney City played Newcastle at Gosford and the promotion was a great success.

KEVIN KEEGAN's decision not to come to Australia this year was a big disappointment to Blacktown City who were undertaking all the preliminary work to bring him here.

Keegan's terms, to be perfectly frank, could not have been satisfied by any club here without substantial sponsorship.

And the devaluation of the Australian dollar certainly didn't help.

Keegan's manager Stuart Webb wanted payment in sterling, which meant Blacktown would have to outlay many more dollars than a year ago.

But Blacktown secretary Peter Thorne insisted the deal was called off amicably with no hard feelings on either side.

ASW believes we could see K.K. back in Australia next year, though perhaps not as a player.

■ ■ ■

MAKE a note of the date. Wednesday April 2 at Marconi Stadium, kick-off 8 pm.

That's where touring Yugoslavian side, Hajduk Split All Stars will play Marconi.

Several international stars will be in the Hajduk team and the promise is we'll see REAL Soccer, the way it used to be played when skill was all-important.

"We want the Yugoslavian community here to see how the stars of a few years ago can still turn on their magic," said Marconi secretary Keith Charles.

■ ■ ■

JOE ALAGIC was always a top Soccer personality both on the field and off but he is not seen much in senior Soccer these days.

Joe coaches a junior side in Manly Warringah so he was a logical choice as a judge when Dee Why Rotary club decided to send a Manly teenager to Old Trafford for a month's coaching.

At his peak, Joe Alagic was as good as any winger in the game and was the fastest player in NSW Federation Soccer.

He was in the 1969 Socceroo squad which did so well in World Cup qualifying matches in Seoul, South Korea.

■ ■ ■

Former Newcastle Rosebud United team mates David Jones and Malcolm McClelland could line up against each other this season. David is keen to join Roy Drinkwater in the Austral United line up while Malcolm has already signed on the dotted line for Highfields Azzurri. He scored a top goal in the first pre-season game at Weston from his favourite midfield position.

All his career Malcolm yearned to play in the midfield but coaches appeared to play him everywhere but there. Highfields coach Richard Hartley is sure to get the very best by playing him in the engine room.



KEVIN KEEGAN — in action for Blacktown.

SYDNEY CITY coach Eddie Thomson has mounted a world-wide search for a goalkeeper.

New signing Alex McPherson hasn't exactly set the world alight since arriving at the Bondi club and Todd Clarke's availability is doubtful because of work commitments so Big Eddie wants to cover all contingencies.

■ ■ ■

THE speed of young Sean Ingham really surprised the spectators at the recent Newcastle Rosebuds v Auburn clash at Adamstown.

For some years Sean was referred to as the "Malcolm McClelland look-a-like" thanks to his crop of red hair and the them, similar build.

It is to be hoped that Sean's stay at the Institute of Sports in Canberra will help him give more thought to his play and perhaps cement a place in the side.

■ ■ ■

NATIONAL LEAGUE vice-chairman Tony Labbozzetta says he expects next season's 14-team format to be kept intact for at least three years.

Labbozzetta realises, like most people, that the public is sick of the lack of stability in the national competition.

There have been far too many changes over the years - and not for the better.

■ ■ ■

WHILE many good judges rate Marconi a big chance for the NSL title, coach Les Scheinflug is not shouting the odds about his team's chance. "We could still do with another class front line player," said Les, "so I cannot say I am completely satisfied with our strength."

"I am hoping for a good year. Most of our players - Rob Wheatley apart - have been together for a couple of years and this must be an advantage."

Marconi don't want to rush Mark Jankovics and Rod Brown too much because both are short of match practice.

INTER-MONARO's selling of Tony Brennan to Blacktown has made Monaro coach Frank Maccarone a happy man. Not that he especially wanted to be rid of the speedy but unpredictable front runner.

"Tony took too long to agree to terms and we'd filled the squad by buying Steve Winn when he came to talk to us," Maccarone said.

Maccarone has such a high opinion of Brennan that he went out of his way to find a club for him. Apparently Brennan still wants to live in Canberra, so the Jimmy Cant phenomenon looks like being repeated.

Cant, who lives and trains in Canberra, had his appeal against the Slickers' transfer fee of \$10,000 heard on Monday, March 10.

Incredibly, the NSW Federation told him it would be a fortnight before a decision was known.

ONE for the Guinness Book of Records — Adelaide Hellas coach Neil McGachey watches his team beat Salisbury United 3-0 at Hindmarsh in the first round of the Nanda Cup from the grandstand.

He wasn't seated in the guest enclosure or in the press box, but in the middle of a bunch of fans!

McGachey kept in touch with the bench with a walkie talkie.

■ ■ ■

A supporter let off a giant cracker on the side of the grandstand about three minutes into the second half during the first round of the Nanda Cup at Hindmarsh.

The crowd stood still and the players stopped for several seconds after the explosion.



JIM CANT

STARTING from this coming Saturday, Radio 5AA in Adelaide will again have a Soccer programme from 6pm.

It will be extended to one hour to incorporate a new talk-back segment. Allan Crisp will host the show. John Perin and John Nyskohus will assist.

■ ■ ■

WILLIE GALLAGHER, who coached Rosebuds last season does not have a position this year. By the time the coaching situation was made clear at Adamstown all the state jobs had gone.

Lately, he and Paul Keogh have been conducting coaching courses and clinics up the coast through the director of coaching Ken Kaiser.

■ ■ ■

FERENC PUSKAS vs **JOE BUGNER**, will be the main attraction at the St George Budapest Soccer club on Saturday night.

In a panel discussion set up by St George, two of Hungary's most famous sportsmen will be present to answer their fans' questions.

And with Bugner's presence at the club, we are sure question time will be most orderly so as not to rile the blonde boxer's temperament!

■ ■ ■

SPONSORS in Soccer are said to be as scarce as hens teeth.

A multi-national organisation is brewing the thought of coming into Soccer and bonding their name with our code.

Who is it?

We are not permitted to say, but it will be official within eight months.

■ ■ ■

SYDNEY OLYMPIC plan a trip to Tokyo in December to compete in an important international tournament.

They have applied to be included and they are now seeking a sponsor to help out.

One company showing some interest is the ice cream manufacturer Norgen Vaas.

■ ■ ■

STILL waiting for its two overseas signings, Augusto Palacios from Peru and John Bourke from Dumbarton, Canberra City has been using Terry Byrne as a pre-season central striker.

Terry is still very keen to get a job transfer to Perth and has not signed a new contract at City. He is the club's all-time highest scorer and played up front from his first season in Canberra in 1978.

He later moved to midfield and then became a devastatingly effective sweeper. Terry will be a huge loss to the gold and blue if he goes West.

LAST year Alan Tredinnick retired from the Department of Education. He was principal of Cardiff North Public School at the time.

These days he gives an enormous amount of his time to Soccer in Northern NSW. He is a director of the Federation which sees him serving on numerous committees.

Last week saw him accept the role of secretary for the Northern NSW Soccer Council, a body of men hopeful of uniting all the facets of the code within the state.

When he has a spare moment he enjoys nothing better than to go to a ground where one of his two NSL sons Peter or Howard are playing.

Northern NSW is fortunate to have such a dedicated official in its midst.

■ ■ ■

SOCCER Schoolies weren't too pleased when they read the media account on proposed plans for primary school sport.

Under the guidance of Mr Roy Masters, a well known rugby league coach, the plan is to place less emphasis on competition and replace it with Aussie-Sports.

Aussie-Sports include KangaCricket — a modified form of cricket, Gym-Fun — basic gymnastics movements, Minky — modified hockey, Soft-Crosse — skills version of lacrosse, Aussie-Footy — modified Australian Rules football, Water Polo, Netball and of course Rugby League.

One doesn't have to be Argus the Boy Wonder to note the glaring omission. We can only hope that Soccer's voice will soon be heard.

■ ■ ■

DIRECTORS of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation had hoped to introduce Under 13, 14, 15 and 16 year sides to the existing First and Second Division clubs, similar to those conducted by NSW.

The Junior Associations in Newcastle, Macquarie and Hunter would not wear it at all. The plan has been shelved until 1987.

■ ■ ■

AT the direct instigation of new Marconi president Tony Labbozzetta, the Soccer supporters club which had been relatively inactive during 1985 is being reformed this year.

Labbozzetta feels that a strong supporters club is essential for success on and off the field and a great number of promotional activities are being planned. The first meeting was organised at the club on Friday night, 21st of March.

As well as Mr Labbozzetta, coach Les Scheinflug was in attendance.



HOWARD TREDINNICK

BIG Marko Perinovic made a controlled debut for Monaro in the 66th minute of the Ampol Cup final when he came on for John Walsh.

Marko had a reputation as something of a wild man with Canberra City. Could it be that Monaro coach Frank Maccarone has let him know in no uncertain terms just what sort of restraint is expected of him at his new club?

■ ■ ■

SOCCEROO Frank Farina was a big hit when he returned to his old stamping ground to play for Far North Queensland in a pre-season trial against Brisbane Lions. Although FNQ lost the game 2-0, Farina was in devastating form and regularly beat the Lions defence.

His after-match comments on his future also raised a few eyebrows, and could surprise some Sydney City officials.

"I was looking at the Italian football scene, but if I was to gain Italian citizenship I would have to give up my Australian citizenship, which I am not prepared to do," he said. "And possibly I could be drafted into the Italian army, which is definitely a no-no."

"I am looking at Europe, with Germany particularly in mind, if I can get in there. David Mitchell has signed with Eintracht Frankfurt, so it can be done."

■ ■ ■

THIS could be the year that makes or breaks Port Macquarie, which plays in the State's Second Division. Near the top in 1984, near the bottom in 1985, Port officials are planning on a big year in 1986.

■ ■ ■

WITH Adelaide City's 2-0 win over Beograd, City has won the Ampol Cup 11 times. Incidentally City then, under the banner of Juventus, won the very first Ampol Cup 27 years ago.

ROY DRINKWATER is determined to do well in his coaching appointment with Austral United in the Northern NSW First Division. The existing players were a formidable lot but there are more coming.

Roy already has Phil Dando, a goalkeeper who served Newcastle United with distinction, showing his usual form and former Cardiff Tigers star Gerrard Maher signed up.

From Gisborne, New Zealand comes striker Kevin Meacock once the transfer tangle with Cardiff City, Wales is sorted out. In addition Roy plans to bring another top English player to the Birmingham Gardens club in about a months time.

Austral could be all set to become one of the glamour sides in this years Division One.

■ ■ ■

FORMER Socceroo Steve Perry has settled quickly at Brisbane City after returning following a year in "exile" at Redlands United. City coach Jim Hermiston could not be more delighted.

"Steve came to me and said he wanted to play for City and he wanted to play for me. How can you leave a guy with an attitude like that out of the team?" Hermiston said.

"He's been a real settling influence at the back. I think the year off has done him wonders."

■ ■ ■

PETER KATHOLOS and Terry Patalis, are expected back from Greece to play in Australia.

Both Sydney Olympic players departed for Greece last year and had mixed fortunes in the Greek first division.

■ ■ ■

A well-known Wollongong City supporter obviously didn't do that well in geography at school.

He was talking about South American imports Saul Rivero and Leonad Arcosa having played with Liverpool before coming to Australia.

"I watch the shows on ABC every week and don't ever remember seeing them playing for Liverpool," he said.

"They could only have played in the reserve team."

We can assure the supporter the South Americans have played plenty of first team football with Liverpool — but not the team that plays at Anfield.

Yes, there is a Liverpool in Uruguay and they have done rather well over the years.

ONLY about 40 fans from Adelaide have booked to travel to Mexico for the World Cup finals — but it will be a different story in 1990 when the finals are played in Italy.

According to the owner of "One Stop Travel" of Norwood Ezio Centofanti, it is estimated that over 10,000 fans from Adelaide will travel to Italy for the occasion.

"In the past six months we have had a least 2,000 inquiries on the matter. We are having talks with an international airline company about chartering a few jets," said Centofanti.

■ ■ ■

BLACKTOWN CITY's new signing from Footscray Donny MacLeod is still recovering his breath from the hard training sessions since he arrived in Sydney.

MacLeod reckons he's never trained harder in his life and Demons coach Casey de Bruin cracks a big whip.

■ ■ ■

ONE would have thought that the new season culminating with the NSL Cup at the weekend would have roared in like a lion — instead it came in like a lamb with barely a whimper — so much for promotion for our game.



PETER KATHOLOS is on his way back to Sydney Olympic after a disappointing spell at Larissa.

ANY schools wishing to apply to the OAK Bill Turner Cup that are based in the country areas should send their applications to Terry Hampton C/o Wallsend High School, Wallsend.

NEW to Adelaide — fully imported Italian Soccer gear. Items like original Juventus-Inter/Milan Roma, Napoli team uniforms are on sale at "Alfa" 51 Hindley St, Adelaide.

WORD has it that a number of Queensland clubs want to join the NSW State League next season which could well be a pointer to bigger things to come at State level.

DASAYEV OR SHILTON — WHO IS WORLD'S TOP GOAL KEEPER?

FOR the past few weeks I have highlighted goalkeepers who will be in the spotlight during the World Cup finals in Mexico and today concludes the series with the man who could emerge the doyen of them all — Russia's Rinat Dasayev.

BY TOM ANDERSON

Dasayev, captain of the USSR team, is regarded by pundits in Europe as the world's leading goalkeeper at the present time.

This, of course, is hotly disputed in England where the great Peter Shilton is held in great esteem.

The action in Mexico will most likely determine this rating once and for all.

Dasayev 29, is class through and through as he aptly demonstrated before the eyes of the world in the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain.

Since then he has continually sought perfection and worked hard at his game.

Life for this great custodian has not been easy as he is always being compared with other former Russian great goalkeeper Lev Yashin.

Yashin was probably the best ever to stand between the sticks and this gives Dasayev a great deal to live up to.

Indeed, every time Dasayev makes a mistake — and those are few and far between — the critics are quick to state that "Yashin would never have made a mistake like that

when he was in his prime." Such is life at the top.

A perfectionist to the core, Dasayev is hard to please with his own performances and strives for continual improvement.

The big Russian was born on July 13, 1957 — surely an unlucky date for any goalkeeper — in the town of Astrakhan on the Caspian Sea.

His first introduction to football was when his father took him to a local coaching school.

He started his junior career as a striker, but was moved into goal when the regular goalie failed to turn up for a game.

Since then he has never looked back.

At the age of 17, he was called into the local team Volgar in the Russian third division.

A year later, he picked up a bad knee injury and was told to give up the game and concentrate on chess.

But he didn't, and came back with such gusto that the Spartak Moscow club stepped in and signed him.

He was made a Physical Education student in Moscow as part of the move.

His debut for the Spartak club came on May 23, 1978 in a Russian first division game against Zarya Voroshilovgrad



RENAT DASAYEV — Russian keeper

which ended in a goalless draw.

In this game, he displaced Spartak's experienced campaigner and Russian national team member Aleksander Prohorov.

The coach of Spartak at the time was the shrewd Konstantin Baskov who, even at the early date, realised he had a champion on his hands.

This match was the start of a glorious career for Dasayev, who has now played over 200 first team

games for Spartak with a wonderful average of losing only 0.9 goals a match.

Dasayev's first international appearance for Russia came against Greece in a European Nations match in Athens on September 12, 1979.

It was not a game he wants to remember for Greece won 1-0 through a goal by Nikoloudis.

Then came Spain and the 1982 World Cup finals and Dasayev thrilled the world with his performances.

I remember being at a press conference in Malaga along with ASW editor David Jack when the great Yashin informed us that Dasayev would quickly become the best goalkeeper in the world.

And when Yashin talks about goalkeeping everybody listens — even though he did act as the Russian PR man for the series!

Dasayev's greatest honour in the game came when he was appointed national team captain in succession to Aleksander Chivadze in 1984.

Although he no doubt envies the number of foreign players who are making a fortune playing in Italy and Spain, Dasayev enjoys a good standard of living in Moscow.

Naturally he is a national hero, but despite this he is still a humble man.

His ambitions are to put up the shutters in Mexico and surpass Lev Yashin's record of 75 international appearances for the USSR.

He is also confident he will still be in possession of the Russian goalkeeping position for the 1990

World Cup finals in Italy.

Dasayev will be one of the stars of the Mexican series — of this there is no doubt.

Australian sports fans will also be able to judge for themselves as to who is better, the Russian or Shilton, when they catch the action from Mexico on the television.

This will be just one more situation that makes the World Cup final series without doubt, the Greatest Football Show on Earth!



LEANDRO — crutches.

TROUBLE HITS BRAZIL'S CUP PREPARATION

BY TOM ANDERSON

ALL is not well in the Brazilian World Cup camp and a head-on collision has erupted between coach Tele Santana and Brazilian Confederation President Otavio Pinto Guimaraes.

The World Cup favourites arrived back in Rio de Janeiro last week in a blaze of controversy and were lambasted by the media after failing to score a goal in their two friendly games against West Germany and Hungary.

The Brazilian squad suffered two embarrassing defeats in its first World Cup warm-up games, just three weeks after beginning training for Mexico, losing 2-0 to West Germany in Frankfurt and 3-0 to Hungary in Budapest.

Team manager Tele Santana defended his side and declared to anyone who would listen, that the tour was a good "learning ground" for his players.

"We were not very good. We lost the two games and we can, and must, recover quickly," Santana declared.

"It was a trip we should not have taken, but now we will have to learn from

the games."

Santana also said there would be no immediate changes in the team.

"They are all good players and we will try to take them all to the World Cup," he said.

However, this was not the feeling in the politically-riddled Brazilian set-up.

Indeed it was the opposite. In a televised interview Otavio Pinto Guimaraes said there could be changes in Brazil's World Cup team.

"Things cannot stay the way they are," Guimaraes said.

"Some players in the team are not good enough to be part of the Brazilian squad."

Guimaraes did not say which players could be replaced.

There were earlier suggestions that Santana would be replaced but Guimaraes praised Santana's talents and said the Confederation was not considering changing coaches.

Santana, who was hired

just six weeks ago, has not yet signed a contract for the job and said he would do so only after the European friendlies.

Santana said he was still optimistic about Brazil's chances in Mexico and said he had talented players he was unable to use in Europe.

"We have many players who did not participate in the European matches and we will see which of these will be ready for the game against Peru," Santana continued.

Among them were midfielders Junior and Cerezo, defender Edinho and attacker Dirceu, all of whom are playing with Italian clubs through May.

Star midfielder Zico was still recovering from a knee injury and it was doubtful he would be fully healed in time while overlapping full-back Leandro was on crutches and both Falcao and Socrates were still plagued by injuries.

Brazil will meet Peru on April 1 in a friendly match in Sao Luis, 1,500 2,375 kms north of Rio.

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Star Profile

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



CHRIS HUMMEL

CHRIS HUMMEL, Canterbury Marrickville Olympic's 20 year old goalkeeper, was largely responsible for his club gaining promotion at the end of last year to the NSL this season.

Chris, born May 4 1965, in the NSW State League last year, was able to block no fewer than six penalties from the seven that he faced.

The penalty that did go in, ricocheted in off the post.

These penalty-blocks enabled Canterbury to pick up many valuable points.

Chris, a former athlete at the Australian Institute of Sport under the guidance of Jimmy Shoulder, soon gained selection in the national side for the 1983 World Youth Championships in Mexico.

He played in all the lead up matches to end up with 18 full Youth caps to his credit.

But five weeks before the finals in Mexico, Chris suffered a nasty shoulder injury and lost his place to Anthony Franken.

German born, Chris migrated to Australia with his parents when he was three.

It's no wonder that Sepp Maier, West Germany's World Cup goalkeeper, according to Chris, was the influence that swayed him to become a goalkeeper.

Chris is the first to admit that his parents, Stewart Devlin and Raul Blanco were most helpful in developing his career.

BORN: May 4, 1965.

BIRTHPLACE: Essen, West Germany.

OCCUPATION: Rep with a fashion Agency.

PLAYING POSITION: Goalkeeper.

WHICH CLUBS DO YOU EXPECT TO DO WELL IN THE 1986 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE: Sydney City and Marconi.

HOW WILL YOUR CLUB GO AND WHY: "We will have to improve our overall standard immensely to do well against the experience of the other clubs."

"Our team is very young with great potential, but we do lack experience which can only be acquired with time."

WHICH PLAYERS WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN YOUR TEAM: Steve O'Connor, Tony Dakos and Howard Tredinnick.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE NSL PLAYERS: David Mitchell, Terry Greedy and Howard Tredinnick.

WHICH OTHER TEAM WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY FOR OTHER THAN THE ONE YOU ARE WITH NOW AND WHY: "South Melbourne. They seem to be a well-organised club and have always had a big strong, consistent squad."

WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE OTHER THAN SOCCER: "To be successful in whatever I am involved with and to be able to make my girlfriend Pam happy. My thoughts are for her."

DO YOU THINK THE MONEY PLAYERS EARN IN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER IS FAIR: "Yes I think so. Not being fulltime players in this country and considering the crowds that attend matches, the money is O.K."

OTHER GENERAL THOUGHTS ON AUSTRALIAN SOCCER: "We must have better administration at all level and these administrators to have a greater professional outlook for the code."

WHO WILL WIN THE 1986 WORLD CUP AND WHY: "West Germany I hope, being a biased opinion. If not West Germany, then Brazil."



(Above) Chris Hummel and Frank Farina after Australian Youth game against Brazil (2-2) in Acapulco November 1982. (Top) Hummel winning the NSW ASPA U/21 Player of the Year Award.

'OWN GOAL' PUTS BERRIES OUT OF CUP

WOLLONGONG WOLVES only just made it into the Cup second round on an "own goal" from Canterbury's Paul Kirwan, but they were always the better side.

In an entertaining contest, Wolves looked the team likely to survive in the forthcoming National League, while Canterbury were much less impressive.

One of the stars of the match was South American import Saul Rivero, who could prove a useful acquisition this year for the Wollongong club.

Wolves supporters have taken to Rivero in quick time and look forward to seeing more magic from this Uruguayan international.

Rivero scored Wolves first goal with a deceptive free-kick in 23 minutes.

Spiro Hantzis scored both the Canterbury goals - not a bad effort from a defender.

One was from a penalty kick and the other from a 25 metres free-kick.

Ian Barker, in goal for the Berries, was kept busy due to the problems in the team's defence but he emerged from the match with credit.

At 2 - 2, it seemed the Canterbury team would hang on to stay in the Cup, but a touch from Irishman Kirwan supplied Wollongong with their winning goal, albeit an own goal.

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JOHN BROWN PUTS HIS FOOT IN IT

BY DAVID JACK

YOU have to hand it to John Brown, the Federal Minister for Sport, for one of the silliest statements ever to come from the mouth of a politician.

At the big opening match celebrations at Parramatta Stadium, the Minister stated: "Now the best people in the world can watch the best team in the world in the best stadium in the world."

He was referring to the local citizens, who happened to be in his electorate, to the players in Parramatta's Rugby League team and to the new and quite small 30,000-capacity ground.

Mr Brown's comments were worth a "laugh of the week" rating.

How on earth could anyone in his right mind refer to Parramatta Stadium as the best in the world?

Has the Sports Minister never heard of the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City, the Olympic Stadium in Munich, Maracana in Rio or Bernebeau Stadium in Madrid?

Just to mention a few.

You'd find grounds better than Parramatta's in poverty-stricken countries like Algeria, Cambodia and Chile.

Even the archaic Wembley Stadium — now 63 years old — is a better ground than Minister Brown's dearly-beloved

Parramatta.

Like John Brown, we were delighted to see the Parramatta Stadium finally unveiled. And we eagerly look forward to the day the new Sydney Sports Ground is built.

But, let us not get too carried away with our enthusiasm.

Australia remains light years behind most nations in the world when it comes to sporting amenities.



JOHN BROWN

MANCHESER UNITED CONTEST WINNER NAMED TONIGHT

TONIGHT at the Dee Why Rotary club in Sydney, a young Soccer player will win a magnificent prize.

Tonight in Dee Why, the winner of the trip will be named.

Those in the running are Sean Lahiff, Murray Gale, Bradley Glasscock, Warren Anderson and Andrew Sinclair.

All have been invited, with their parents, to tonight's Rotary Dinner for the big announcement.

John Constantine, president of the NSW Soccer Federation, will be among those present.

In next week's ASW, we will publish the name of the Old Trafford-bound winner and an interview with him.

BY DAVID JACK

The prize is an air ticket to Manchester, plus free accommodation in that city and a month's training and coaching with the famous Manchester United club.

This is an exciting Rotary project, the brainchild of Johnny Thomson, publicity officer with the NSW Soccer Federation.

Last week the candidates for the trip were whittled down to a short list of five boys for interview by the judging panel.

The panel comprising Thomson, former Metters winger Alan Delaney, Soccer Joe Alagic, who is one of Manly Warringah's best-known sportsmen, and David Jack, editor of AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY, agreed the quality of those interviewed was outstanding — making judging very difficult.

SYDNEY CITY JUNIORS UNDER 9s INVITATION TOURNAMENT FOR THE ALBY'S AUTO ELECTRICAL SHIELD

This Tournament will be staged at Centennial Park, Sunday, April 6th.

16 teams will participate in a round robin format.

Applications are still being accepted till March 28th.

For further information, please contact:

Mr TOM GUTH,

3000 463 (A.H.)

RUDOLF ROTH

BY BILL TURNER

THE Newcastle Soccer fraternity is the poorer following the recent death of Rudolf Roth.

His sad passing will have a decided affect beyond his home city. Rudi was a well known identity in Sydney and Melbourne, not only in Soccer, but in the world of business.

Calls and cards have been pouring in to Rudi's wife Irene and son Rudi junior since the news of his death.

Rudi was born in Hungary and forced his way up through the ranks in Budapest until he was chosen as the goalkeeper in the national team to play Italy in Rome in 1947.

He moved to Germany and signed with Stamborg in a minor league. It was here he met and married Irene.

Later he played for München FCV Bayern, München 1860 and Neckarau Mannheim. He had offers to play in Italy and Brazil but chose rather to come to Australia where he had friends and rela-

tives.

On February 3, 1950 they disembarked in Newcastle and were whisked up to the Greta Camp. News of his arrival spurred several clubs to try and gain his signature, but he chose Wallsend.

Immigration authorities instructed them to move to Queensland, but the then Minister for Immigration Mr Harold Holt intervened.

Wallsend already had international goalkeeper Bill Mahoney on their books but he was on his way to South Africa with the Australian side. The two men became firm friends.

Rudi made his debut with Wallsend reserves against Cardiff and impressed immediately. The following week he played reserve grade again but he had been observed by the selectors who plucked him out of reserve grade to play for Northern Districts. (This was prior to Northern NSW becoming a separate Soccer state).

These Newcastle v Sydney clashes were always highlights in the Soccer calendar and Rudi did not let the selectors or the Newcastle fans down.

So good was he that the Sydney manager Tommy Tennant rang the NSW selectors and Rudi found himself playing in the NSW v The Rest fixture the very next day. All this before he had played one senior game in the country.

At Wallsend Rudi played with such "greats" as Reg Date, Artie Quill, Hedley Parkes and the like. The following season he broke his arm which left him sidelined for some time.

He later played at Charlestown with the East Lakes Club joining up with such notables as Johnny Flick, Ken Younger, H. Allanson and Ivor Allomes.

After his playing days were over Rudi became a referee. It did not take long for him to force his way to the top in this area and he became one of the

best referees in the country.

After arriving in Newcastle Rudi served his two year bond working at Henry Lanes Industries in Hamilton North. He recognised that new Australians were unable to obtain delicatessen foods from their lands of origin. Rudi changed all that with much of the credit going to Irene who was a trained expert in that trade.

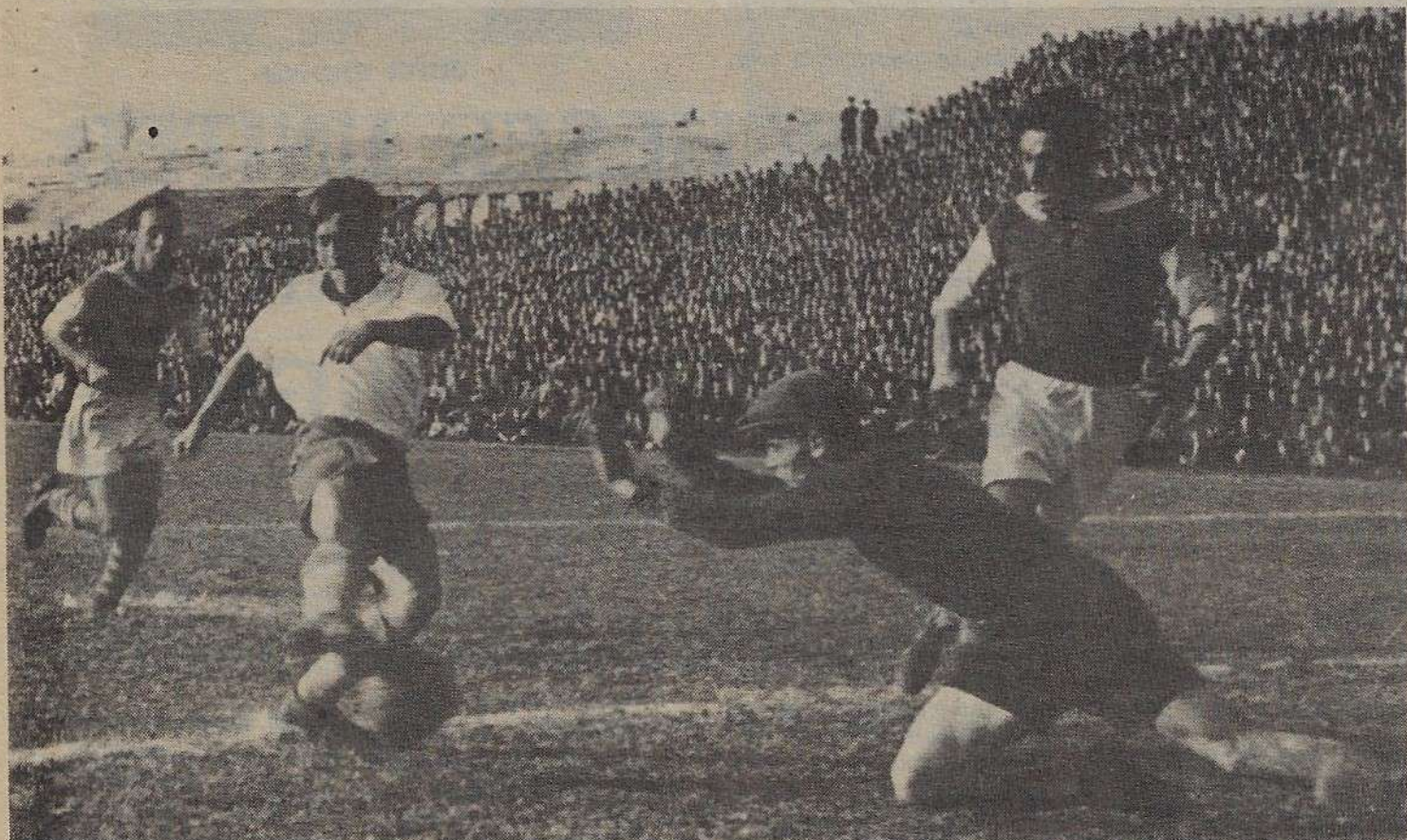
From a small shop in Islington to a large retail/wholesale business in Wallsend the Roths took over a former picture theatre in New Lambton where the business flourished even more. Prior to his retirement Rudi sold his "Red Tulip" chocolate franchise back to that company.

Since then he had been assisting Rudi jnr and his wife Linda to establish a Club Sales business from the same premises.

Rudi played a leading role in the Soccer Veterans activities and donated the Rudi Roth Shield which was the first ever competition for High School girls.



A mature Rudi Roth as referee prior to the kick off between Chelsea and Northern NSW at Newcastle No.1 Sportsground on May 15, 1965. At left is Chelsea skipper Venables while opposite is Northern NSW and Cessnock captain Cliff Almond.
13,000 fans saw Chelsea win 6-2.



In this clash between Bayern München and VFL Neckarau the young Rudolf Roth bravely dives at the feet of the oncoming striker. He pushed the well struck ball onto the goal post but Rudi's right defender deflected the ball into the net.

A very interesting side light to this fixture was the price of admission. As can be seen in this picture the grandstand was in poor condition as a result of bombing raids on Germany, so club administrators charged "The price of a brick" or "one brick". Many people in that large crowd actually brought a house brick to gain entry.

Anyone bringing a housebrick to a ground today would be regarded with outright suspicion and would probably be denied entry.

Hungarian Soccer star gives Wallsend victory

SUNDAY SUN 7.5.50

AN ex-Hungarian Soccer international, Rudolph Roth, yesterday won Wallsend its game 3-2 against Auburn.

Roth gave a brilliant exhibition of goalkeeping.

Roth took his place in the Wallsend team when W. Mahoney left for South Africa with the Australian tourists.

With Auburn attacking throughout the second half, Roth brought off save after save in amazing fashion.

The climax came close to full-time when Roth, with a full-length dive across the

goalmouth, deflected what appeared to be the equaliser.

Roth took many knocks. A swollen eye and a heavily-banded arm proved this after the game.

Auburn's rally when down 3-0 a minute after the start of the second half lifted the game to the best seen this season.

A little more experience could easily have turned the tide in its favor.

A penalty goal by Bow-

man inspired the team, and from then on it played copy-book football.

J. Stevens, at full back, and winger J. Cronin stood out for tireless work and fine positional play.

For Wallsend, Herd, Frame and Peel were always in the picture, but it was definitely Roth's day.

Former Australian representative Reg Date made a reappearance, but his game lacked the sparkle and dash of previous years.

Wallsend Signs On Soccer International

SVN 22.6.50

By "CELTIC"

An international goalie, Rudolph Roth, of Hungary, has signed for Wallsend State League Soccer Club. Roth will appear with the Crystal Palace team at practice tomorrow afternoon.

The club officials, Messrs. L. Nelson (secretary) and C. Young (treasurer) secured Roth's services yesterday.

Roth, who played as an amateur in Hungary, joined the VFL Weckarau Professional Club in 1947. The club is a member of the German First League Division.

While there, Roth secured a divisional cap with Bavaria.

In 1948 he played in a full international for Hungary against Italy in Rome before a crowd of 70,000.

Roth is 27 years of age and has already made one appearance in Australia as a goalkeeper.

ACROBATIC GOALKEEPER SOCCER CROWD PLEASER

Goalkeeper Rudy Roth is thrilling Newcastle crowds with his acrobatic displays between the sticks for Wallsend.

It is possible that he could create a record by being the first European migrant chosen to play for Australia.

After uncertain displays in earlier matches Ron Lond came back into his own with Auburn against Copral last Saturday.

If he retains this form Australian selectors will have a difficult job to choose between Lond, N. Conquest and R. Roth for the position of goalkeeper in the Tests.

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Around the page are old newspaper cutting of Rudi Roth's quite illustrious career.



BULGARIA — IMPROVERS WITH A VERY DIFFICULT TASK

FRANK COLETTA surveys how Bulgaria will fare in Mexico



The draw is made and Italy's first challenge is Bulgaria. The draw was made in Mexico by a five-year-old in the presence of FIFA president, Joao Havelange.



It seems amazing that a nation such as Bulgaria has so many internal difficulties, not the least of which is their domestic competition which has been more often than not fixed with scandals of all sorts.

There is no doubting Bulgaria have been and still remain the giant enigma in Eastern Europe.

For so long they have promised so much yet failed to deliver the goods.

As previously mentioned their domestic competition has never been of a mind-boggling standard yet one must take their hats off to the brave Bulgarian FA.

Their controversial decision at the start of this season to award no points for 0-0 draws paid instant dividends because not one of their opening League games produced such a result. This facet has continued throughout out the season and this goal searching style to an extent has rubbed off on the national side.

They began their World Cup campaign in Belgrade against Yugoslavia earning themselves a 0-0 draw and a valuable away point.

Their confidence was knocked down somewhat along with their momentum when they were unluckily beaten at the Parc

de Prince by France 1-0 when in the least they could have drawn. A Platini penalty beat them.

From there they played Luxembourg at home in Sofia and easily accounted for the part-timers 4-0 after leading 2-0 at the break, goals came from Sirakov, Mladenov and Velichkov Dimitrov.

They kicked on from there and beat East Germany 1-0 at home with Mladenov scoring.

Their best effort by far was an emphatic 2-0 win over European champions France, led by Platini, Giresse and Rocheteau.

The classy Frenchmen were no answer to the Bulgarians with captain Georgi Dimitrov showing the way from his centre-back position.

Dimitrov grabbed a goal while striker Sirakov made it 2-0 with his second goal of the campaign.

A month later Bulgaria kept the roll going when they downed Yugoslavia 2-1 with Guetov grabbing both goals and the Yugoslav reply coming from Milko Djurovski.

It seemed the Bulgarian run was infallible when they beat Luxembourg 3-1 away. Unbelievably two of Bulgaria's goals were own goals by Hellers and Barboni while the captain

Dimitrov once again got onto the scorers list.

Bulgaria were, of course, without top goalkeeper Mikhailov and Footballer of the Year Nikolov — both banned for life after the cup final scandal earlier this year — but secured their place in the World Cup finals with a three-goal first-half burst.

The first goal came in only the second minute when a Peter Petrov shot was deflected in by Guy Hellers, and there was defensive help with No 2 as well — this time Jemp Barboni helped Kostadin Kostadinov's effort home.

Gheorghi Dimitrov scored the third goal to ensure the points for Bulgaria, while Luxembourg grabbed a consolation penalty through Langers in the 65th minute.

A crowd at 2,500 was on hand.

In the last match of the qualifying games, Bulgaria was beaten by a desperate East Germany 2-1 in the Karl Marx Stadium, Gotschev replying to the GDR goals of Zoetsche and Liebers.

Despite that loss Bulgaria remained equal table-toppers with France, having scored two goals less and conceded one goal more.

This all eventuating in

the last two matches where France were battling to make the World Cup finals with 7 points from 6 games with 6-0 and 2-0 wins over Luxembourg and Yugoslavia.

During the Cup campaign the Bulgarian Supreme Court sentenced Football Association President Dymitr Nikolov and Secretary for International Affairs Deizo Nanev to 18 years behind bars for accepting bribes from foreign sources and diverting official funds into their private bank accounts.

Whether these are related to any World Cup matches is unknown.

Bulgaria are going all out in an attempt not to be underdone for the World Cup which kicks off for them in the opening match against World Champions Italy.

Prior to the Cup campaign Bulgaria played a friendly against Holland, and were beaten 1-0 in Heerenveen when De Wuit scored with 10 minutes remaining.

It was a low-key match for both teams — for Bulgaria it was a matter of reorganising after the disruption of the national team by the suspensions following the Cup Final scandal at the end of season 1985.

The two clubs that were dissolved after the Cup Final violence were then restored and renamed. They are having very different fortunes under their new names.

Sredets, formerly the army club CSKA, were doing all right until half way through the season when they slumped dramatically, following a shock 4-1 thrashing at Lokomotiv Sofia. Vitosha, formerly Levski Spartak were not doing very well and had plummeted near the foot of the table after eight matches. Since then they have found form and have soared to fourth place.



Outsider — Tsvetan Yonchev

The Bulgarians have defied their internal troubles and performed well on the international scene.

They have kept in touch with Greece by frequently playing them in friendlies and beating them the last two times quite convincingly.

In Athens Bulgaria won 3-2 with goals from



POSSIBLE SQUAD:

Valov, Emio Dimitrov, Georgi Dimitrov, Koev, Petrov, Arabov, Zdravkov, Ckolev, Jeliakov, Gotchev, Zhelyuskov, K. Kelov, Gospodinov, Kostadinov, Patchev, Izkrenov, Gotev, Pechlivanov, Tanev, Slavkov, Markov.

Another, Jeliakov has exiled himself in France with Strasburg but will be back in time for Mexico.

Mladenov, Gospodinov and the captain Georgi Dimitrov.

Then in Salonika, two second-half substitutions scoring the goals which secured victory for a Bulgarian team regrouping their forces.

The Balcanic manager is 45-year-old Ivan Vutsov. He is one of major instigators of the new Bulgarian technique and skills. He has got the Bulgarian team away from the Soviet style and brought a more official style.

His job was always going to be a difficult one from the moment he lost five of his established internationals in the aftermath of the Cup Final scandal (notably Mikhailov, Nikolov, Spasov, Tichev and Sirakov).

The defence is a basic one based on endurance and aggressiveness.

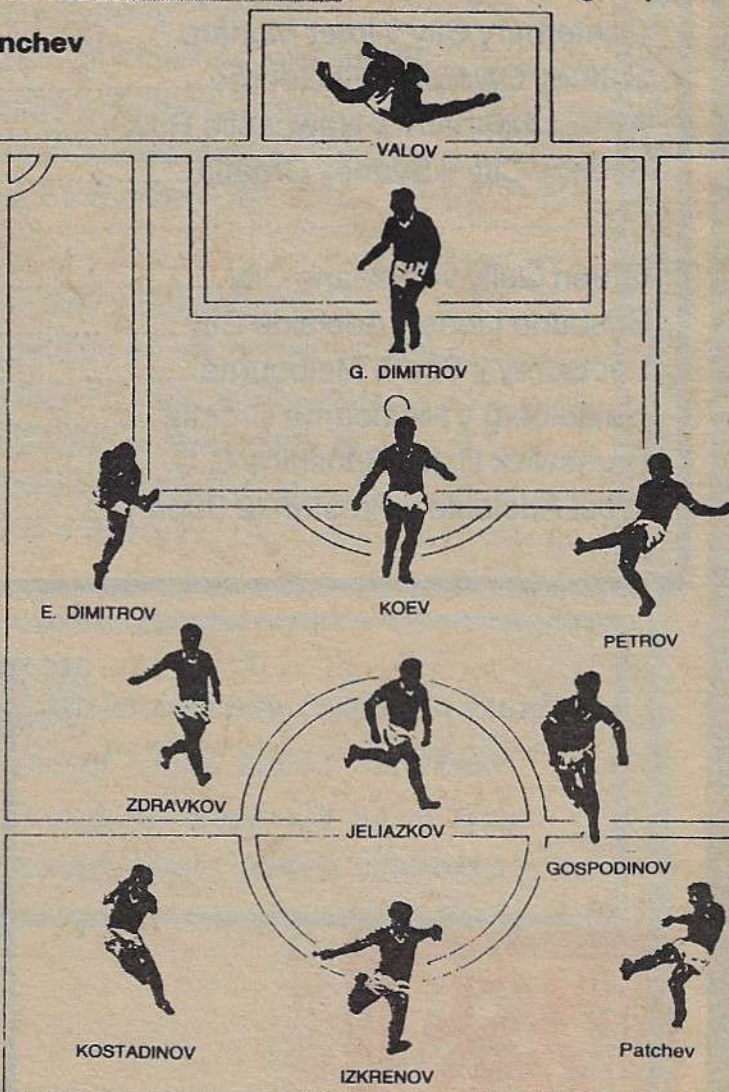
In the middle of the field there is class and up front forwards who know their way to goal.

The youngsters such as Izkrenov (most promising), Ilia Valov (substitute of the sanctioned Mikhailov), Emio Dimitrov (recently made debut) and Krassimir Koev (libero), are the stars of the side and none of them are over 24 years of age.

In their latest matches they have gone down 2-1 to East Germany where Viachko grabbed their goal and in Morocco they were held to a 0-0 draw by the home side.

My View

The Bulgarians certainly have a stern task in Group A especially coming up against the winners of the past two World Cups. They will push the Argentines and Italians but their form of late has been a little unimpressive. Could grab one of the four extra spots for the second phase for teams finishing third in their group.



From left to right: Zdrakov, Getov, Iskrenov, Sadkov, Konstandinov, Arabov, Gospodinov, Gotschev, Petrov, Volour, Dimitrov.

OLYMPIC AIRWAYS OFFICIAL 1986



ROUND 1 March 29/30

Wollongong City v Marconi
 Canberra City v Blacktown City
 Sydney Olympic v Canterbury
 APIA-Leichhardt v Inter Monaro
 Sydney Croatia v St George
 Sydney City v Newcastle R.U.

Footscray v Brisbane Lions
 Heidelberg v Adelaide City
 Brunswick U.J. v South Melbourne
 Green Gully v Melbourne Croatia
 West Adelaide v Sunshine G.C. (2.30pm)
 Brisbane City v Preston

ROUND 4 April 19/20

Inter Monaro v Wollongong City
 Canterbury v Marconi
 Sydney Croatia v APIA-Leichhardt
 Newcastle R.U. v Syd. Olympic (Sat 7pm)
 St George v Canberra City
 Blacktown City v Sydney City

West Adelaide v Green Gully
 Brisbane City v Brunswick U.J.
 Sunshine G.C. v Heidelberg
 Melbourne Croatia v Footscray
 South Melbourne v Brisbane Lions
 Preston v Adelaide City (2.30pm)

ROUND 7 May 17/18

Canterbury v Inter Monaro
 Blacktown City v St George
 Marconi v Newcastle R.U.
 Wollongong City v Sydney Croatia
 Canberra City v APIA-Leichhardt
 Sydney City v Sydney Olympic

Brisbane Lions v Brisbane City
 Footscray v West Adelaide
 Heidelberg v Green Gully
 South Melbourne v Melbourne Croatia
 Adelaide City v Sunshine G.C. (2.30pm)
 Preston v Brunswick U.J.

ROUND 10 June 1/2

Canberra City v Wollongong
 Sydney Olympic v Marconi
 APIA-Leichhardt v Blacktown City
 Sydney Croatia v Canterbury
 Newcastle R.U. v Inter Monaro
 (Sat 2.30pm)
 Sydney City v St George

Heidelberg v Footscray
 Brunswick U.J. v Brisbane City
 Green Gully v Adelaide City
 West Adelaide v St Melbourne Croatia
 Brisbane City v Melbourne Croatia
 Preston v Sunshine G.C.

ROUND 2 April 5/6

Blacktown City v Wollongong City
 Newcastle R.U. v Syd. Croatia (Sat 7pm)
 St George v APIA-Leichhardt
 Inter Monaro v Sydney Olympic
 Canterbury v Canberra City
 Marconi v Sydney City

Brisbane City v West Adelaide
 Sunshine G.C. v Green Gully
 Melbourne Croatia v Brunswick U.J.
 South Melbourne v Heidelberg
 Adelaide City v Footscray (2.30pm)
 Preston v Brisbane Lions

ROUND 5 May 3/4

Blacktown City v Canterbury
 Marconi v Inter Monaro
 Wollongong City v St George
 Canberra City v Newcastle R.U.
 Sydney Olympic v Sydney Croatia
 Sydney City v APIA-Leichhardt

Heidelberg v Brisbane City
 Brunswick U.J. v West Adelaide
 Adelaide City v St Melbourne Croatia
 Brisbane Lions v Melbourne Croatia
 Footscray v Sunshine G.C.
 Green Gully v Preston

ROUND 8 May 24/25

APIA-Leichhardt v Wollongong City
 Sydney Croatia v Marconi
 Newcastle R.U. v Blacktown (Sat 2.30pm)
 St George v Canterbury
 Sydney Olympic v Canberra City
 Inter Monaro v Sydney City

Brunswick U.J. v Heidelberg
 Green Gully v Footscray
 West Adelaide v Brisbane Lions (2.30pm)
 Brisbane City v Adelaide City
 Sunshine G.C. v South Melbourne
 Preston v Melbourne Croatia

ROUND 11 June 11/12

St George v Newcastle R.U. (Bruce Stad.)
 Inter Monaro v Sydney Olympic
 Canterbury v APIA-Leichhardt
 Blacktown City v Sydney Croatia
 Marconi v Canberra City
 Wollongong City v Sydney City

Sunshine G.C. v Brisbane City
 Melbourne Croatia v West Adelaide
 South Melbourne v Green Gully
 Adelaide City v Brunswick U.J.
 Brisbane Lions v Heidelberg
 Preston v Footscray

ROUND 3 April 12/13

Marconi v Blacktown City
 Wollongong City v Canterbury
 Canterbury City v Inter Monaro
 Sydney Olympic v St George
 APIA-Leichhardt v Newcastle R.U.
 Sydney City v Sydney Croatia

Green Gully v Brisbane City
 Brisbane Lions v Adelaide City
 Footscray v South Melbourne
 Heidelberg v Melbourne Croatia
 Brunswick U.J. v Sunshine G.C.
 West Adelaide v Preston (2.30pm)

ROUND 6 May 10/11

Newcastle R.U. v Wollongong City
 St George v Marconi (Sat 2.30pm)
 Inter Monaro v Blacktown C. (Bruce Stad.)
 APIA-Leichhardt v Sydney Olympic
 Sydney Croatia v Canberra City
 Canterbury v Sydney City

Green Gully v Brunswick U.J.
 West Adelaide v Heidelberg (2.30pm)
 Brisbane City v Footscray
 Sunshine G.C. v Brisbane Lions
 Melbourne Croatia v Adelaide City
 South Melbourne v Preston

ROUND 9 June 7/8

Inter Monaro v St George (Bruce Stad.)
 Canterbury v Newcastle R.U.
 Blacktown City v Sydney Croatia
 Marconi v APIA-Leichhardt
 Wollongong City v Sydney Olympic
 Sydney City v Canberra City

South Melbourne v Brisbane City
 Adelaide City v West Adelaide (2.30pm)
 Brisbane Lions v Green Gully
 Footscray v Brunswick U.J.
 Melbourne Croatia v Sunshine G.C.
 Heidelberg v Preston

ROUND 12 June 14/15

Marconi v Wollongong City
 Blacktown City v Canterbury
 Canterbury v Sydney Olympic
 Inter Monaro v APIA-Leichhardt
 St George v Sydney Croatia
 Newcastle R.U. v Sydney City

West Adelaide v Brisbane City
 Green Gully v Sunshine G.C.
 Brunswick U.J. v Melbourne Croatia
 Heidelberg v South Melbourne Croatia
 Footscray v Adelaide City
 Brisbane Lions v Preston

ROUND 22 Sept. 13/14

Newcastle R.U. v St George (Sat 7pm) B
 Sydney Croatia v Inter Monaro A
 APIA-Leichhardt v Canterbury S
 Sydney Olympic v Blacktown City N
 Canberra City v Marconi S
 Sydney City v Wollongong City P

NANDA SOCCER CUP DATES

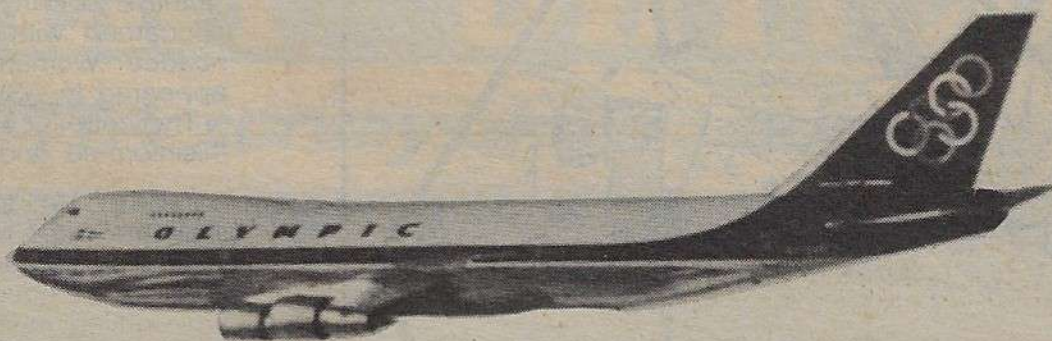
ROUND 2 APRIL 27
 ROUND 3 JUNE 1
 CUP SEMI-FINALS JULY 27

**CUP FINAL
 AUGUST 17**



Ansett.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE DRAW



OLYMPIC
AIRWAYS
The International Airline of Greece

14/15

Wollongong City
Sydney Croatia v Newcastle R.U.
APIA-Leichhardt v St George
Sydney Olympic v Inter Monaro
Canberra City v Canterbury
Sydney City v Marconi

ROUND 13 July 5/6

Wollongong City v Blacktown City
Sydney Croatia v Newcastle R.U.
APIA-Leichhardt v St George
Sydney Olympic v Inter Monaro
Canberra City v Canterbury
Sydney City v Marconi

Brisbane City v Green Gully
Adelaide City v Brisbane Lions (2.30pm)
South Melbourne v Footscray
Melbourne Croatia v Heidelberg
Sunshine G.C. v Brunswick U.J.
Preston v West Adelaide

ROUND 16 August 2/3

Canterbury v Blacktown City
Inter Monaro v Marconi (Bruce Stadium)
St George v Wollongong City
Newcastle R.U. v C'berra City (2.30pm)
Sydney Croatia v Sydney Olympic
APIA-Leichhardt v Sydney City

Brunswick U.J. v Green Gully
Heidelberg v West Adelaide
Footscray v Brisbane City
Brisbane Lions v Sunshine G.C.
Adelaide City v Melb. Croatia (2.30pm)
Preston v South Melbourne

ROUND 19 August 23/24

Wollongong City v APIA-Leichhardt
Marconi v Sydney Croatia
Blacktown City v Newcastle R.U.
Canterbury v St George
Canberra City v Sydney Olympic
Sydney City v Inter Monaro

Brisbane City v South Melbourne
West Adelaide v Adelaide City
Green Gully v Brisbane Lions
Brunswick U.J. v Footscray
Sunshine G.C. v Melbourne Croatia
Preston v Heidelberg

21/22

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Croatia (Bruce
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Olympic
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n Gully
k U.J. (2.30pm)
erg

ROUND 14 July 12/13

Blacktown City v Marconi
Canterbury v Wollongong City
Inter Monaro v Canberra City
St George v Sydney Olympic
N'castle R.U. v APIA-L'hardt
(Sat 2.30pm)
Sydney Croatia v Sydney City

Green Gully v West Adelaide
Brunswick U.J. v Brisbane City
Heidelberg v Sunshine G.C.
Footscray v Melbourne Croatia
Brisbane Lions v South Melbourne
Adelaide City v Preston (2.30pm)

ROUND 17 August 9/10

Wollongong v Newcastle R.U.
Marconi v St George
Blacktown City v Inter Monaro
Sydney Olympic v APIA-Leichhardt
Canberra City v Sydney Croatia
Sydney City v Canterbury

Brisbane City v Brisbane Lions
West Adelaide v Footscray (2.30pm)
Green Gully v Heidelberg
Melbourne Croatia v South Melbourne
Sunshine G.C. v Adelaide City
Brunswick U.J. v Preston

ROUND 20 August 30/31

St George v Inter Monaro
Newcastle R.U. v Canterbury (Sat 7pm)
Sydney Croatia v Blacktown City
APIA-Leichhardt v Marconi
Sydney Olympic v Wollongong City
Canberra City v Sydney City

Footscray v Heidelberg
Brisbane Lions v Brunswick U.J.
Adelaide City v Green Gully (2.30pm)
South Melbourne v West Adelaide
Melbourne Croatia v Brisbane City
Sunshine G.C. v Preston

28/29

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ROUND 15 July 19/20

Wollongong City v Inter Monaro
Marconi v Canterbury
APIA-Leichhardt v Sydney Croatia
Sydney Olympic v Newcastle R.U.
Canberra City v St George
Sydney City v Blacktown City

Brisbane City v Heidelberg
West Adel. v Brunswick U.J. (2.30pm)
South Melbourne v Adelaide City
Melbourne Croatia v Brisbane Lions
Sunshine G.C. v Footscray
Preston v Green Gully

ROUND 18 August 16/17

Inter Monaro v Canterbury
St George v Blacktown City
Newcastle R.U. v Marconi (Sat 2.30pm)
Sydney Croatia v Wollongong City
APIA-Leichhardt v Canberra City
Sydney Olympic v Sydney City

Heidelberg v Brunswick U.J.
Footscray v Green Gully
Brisbane Lions v West Adelaide
Adelaide City v Brisbane City (2.30pm)
South Melbourne v Sunshine G.C.
Melbourne Croatia v Preston

ROUND 21 Sept. 6/7

Wollongong City v Canberra City
Marconi v Sydney Olympic
Blacktown City v APIA-Leichhardt
Canterbury v Sydney Croatia
Inter Monaro v Newcastle R.U.
St George v Sydney City

Brisbane City v Sunshine G.C.
West Adelaide v Melbourne Croatia
Green Gully v South Melbourne
Brunswick U.J. v Adelaide City
Heidelberg v Brisbane Lions
Footscray v Preston

TOP FIVE SERIES PLAY-OFFS

The dates of the "Top-Five Series"
have not been confirmed.
Venues also have not been determined
at this stage

NOTE: All Matches played on Sundays
except where stated otherwise.
All kick-off times will be at 3pm
except where stated otherwise.



TAKE THEM TO BUSH

HERE is a suggestion following the article by Frank Coletta (ASW 4th March) re national side lacks match play.

While it is necessary for the ASF to seek international matches for the national teams, maybe they should look within Australia for matches as well.

The local games may not be up to international standard, but they would be match practice for the teams.

The ASF should begin to look at taking the national teams out into the country areas to play games against country association teams.

The cost of this would be less than international matches and would have to be mainly born by the ASF and the team sponsor, as the country associations do not have access to large sums of money.

Also, maybe the States could pay part of the cost.

This scheme would have the effect of giving the national team match practice and giving the sponsor more exposure.

Maybe there are players hidden in the country who could make it in the NSL, but never get the chance to show their skill.

The promotional potential of this exercise would be enormous.

We in the country are constantly being brainwashed with Rugby and Rules. It is time the ASF struck back and started to promote Soccer at grass roots level in the country.

Maybe they have forgotten that there is life and Soccer west of the Blue Mountains.

**Ray Verdon,
Koorngal.**

ED. Thank you for your constructive suggestions but there is one snag. The strength of country teams is well below what is required to give the Socceroos tough preparation for a World Cup or the Olympic Games.

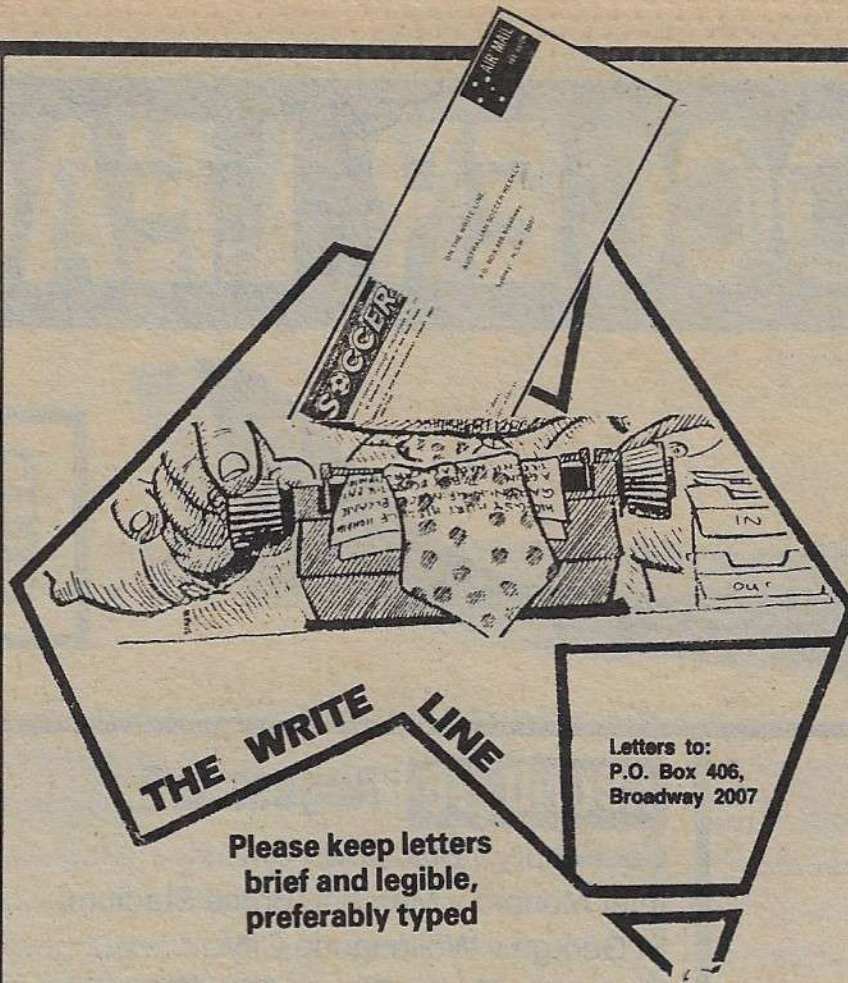
CONSIDERABLY INTERESTED

IT was with considerable interest when I read in the "Short Shots" (18th February), that a ladies club, Killarney Heights, had folded.

Although it is true that some of the players from the 1985 State League side left the club to play elsewhere, the Killarney club will field about five teams in the 1986 competition in the Manly-Warringah competition.

With the amalgamation of the Manly-Warringah Ladies Soccer Association and the Manly-Warringah Soccer Asscn., it was decided that no one club would represent the district Association. Instead, girls have been invited to try out for teams to play in the newly formed Women's Soccer League under the name of Manly-Warringah. From information received, there has been little difficulty in obtaining sufficient numbers to fill the two sides required for the competition.

Don Balmain.



WHEN BEST WAS HERE

I wonder if you have any back copies of issues which contain interviews with George Best when he was out here two or three years ago now. And if so how much would they cost?

Could you also keep up to date tabs on all the Aussie players overseas and how they're doing. Thankyou.

**Steve Biacsi,
Seaton 5023**

ED. We will certainly keep readers up to date with how the Aussie "exiles" are progressing. Sorry we cannot help with old copies of ASW. Everything was destroyed when our premises were gutted in a fire two years ago.

PROVOCATIVELY INSULTING

I found the article on the Republic of Ireland's national team insulting and provocative.

If you must poke fun at Ireland's lack of Soccer success at least get your facts right.

In the Republic of Ireland (the 26 counties) Soccer comes very far behind Gaelic football as a mass participation sport.

In Northern Ireland (the six counties) although the population is less than half that of the Republic, Soccer is the number one code.

If ever the Irish combine and the majority could be persuaded to abandon Gaelic football, the rest of the world might get a surprise at what "Paddy" can do.

Few Irish really resent Jack Charlton's appointment to succeed Eoin Hand, having become used to English accents in the Irish dressing room over the past 20-odd years since English-born players of Irish extraction began to be selected.

Finally, Charlton may never have seen the Republic's side in action but he can hardly be unaware of its players and its unfulfilled potential. With men like Beglin, Whelan and Lawrenson of Liverpool Moran and McGrath of Man. Utd, Sheedy of Everton, O'Leary of Arsenal and Bonner of Celtic they are not exactly unknowns.

Granted Brady and Stapleton are probably on the final lap of their great careers but I would bet on at least one of that pair still playing in 1990. Both are model pros who know how to look after themselves.

The real problem for Eire's Soccer bosses is, and has been, the need to select teams that can get a result away from home and in this regard I suspect that Eoin Hands' loyalty to some of "his" players might have brought him undone in the World cup matches now gone.

Many people have had to learn never to underestimate the Irish Mr Editor!

**Chris Leckie,
Box Hill Vic. 3128.**

ED. Your letter was received, appropriately on St Patrick's Day. ASW does not dispute the points you make but we do assure you that not everyone is happy about Jackie Charlton's appointment. In fact in the first ballot for the job, Bob Paisley was given more votes than Charlton.

SOCCER WAR CONTINUED

REFERENCE: Letter to Editor from "Interested Party" — Vol.7, No.233. I am very concerned with the inaccuracy of the letter headed "Women's Soccer Needs Help" which appeared in ASW on 18.2.86.

The letter contains few facts and many misinformed and damaging assertions.

I would like to reassure "Interested Party" that the administrators of the Australian Women's Soccer Association are more than aware of the needs of the national team and we are working towards achieving those needs.

During 1985 and 1986 every effort has gone towards preparing the national team for the forthcoming Oceania Cup. This preparation is seen as the first step in the ASWA's national programme for the proposed World Cup in 1988.

For the first time, the national team will participate in a training programme at the Australian Institute of Sport before touring. The AWSA has arranged this in response to specific requests from national players.

With respect to finance, few national sporting associations are fortunate enough to be able to compete at international level without requiring some player contribution. Given that women's Soccer is still in its infancy (first National Championship was held in 1974) it will be some time before we can afford the luxury of total support for ALL members.

Interested Party is correct in thinking that the first priority is to promote the game and administer it as professionally as possible.

With the AWSA Director of Planning, Promotion and Marketing, I am developing programmes aimed to achieve such priorities. Increased participation and public awareness, improvements in newspaper and other media outlets, and ultimately securing of sponsorship, will undoubtedly help women's Soccer gain the recognition it deserves.

Our marketing potential will not be recognised until these factors are realised.

The success of the national team at the Oceania Cup will also bear an influence on our marketing potential.

I hope that I have clarified a few points for Interested Party and I also hope that any future correspondence from that "Party" is written in a more positive and informed manner — in a manner that could not be construed as regressive to our development of women's Soccer.

**Heather Reid,
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
Canberra, ACT.**

ED. All sides have had their say now and it might be a good idea to let the matter drop. Perhaps all will work together for the good of women's Soccer.

JANUARY MADNESS HAS TO STOP

AT recent matches in Sydney, conditions have been ideal for Soccer and the cooler weather has made life much more pleasant for players and spectators.

This proves that the pre-season competitions start much too early. One prominent coach complained that the Ampol Cup kick-off on January 17 was inflicted on clubs who were given no chance to accept or reject the date. I believe that coach said the clubs had been ripped off by the Federation — being forced to play afternoon games in mid-summer.

My son is a very keen cricket fan. He does not want to know about Soccer in January. I wonder how many other cricketers feel the same way. This January Soccer madness is only driving young people away from the sport. Let them enjoy their cricket in summer and their Soccer in winter.

Or does this make too much good sense?

**Mrs Jean Jennings,
Toongabbie, NSW.**

ED. Of course it makes too much sense. That's why administrators continue to foist the early kick-off on the public. Maybe in 1987, they will be better organised and start the season a month later.

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JOHNNY WARREN

ONTONG — ONE OF THE SURVIVORS FROM 1977 PSL

ALTHOUGH the NSL is about to kick off its tenth season, a brief look at the playing personnel reveals there are relatively few survivors from those early, exciting years.

John and Robert O'Shea, Jimmy Campbell, Alan Niven, Jimmy Cant, Steve Hogg, Mike Milovanovic, Murray Barnes, Gary Meler, Steve O'Connor are a few who come readily to mind.

So too does Canberra City Olympians' tigerish defender Paul Ontong.

The 29 year old South African-born player is very much one of the survivors, spending the inaugural 1977 season with Mooroolbark, followed by four seasons with Brisbane Lions until he moved to the national capital in 1982.

Those who have admired the diminutive Ontong will be surprised to hear that it was as a scrum half or five eighth in Rugby Union back in his native Johannesburg that Ontong kicked off his sporting career.

"I played Soccer as well as Rugby Union in those days (as a goalkeeper) but really Rugby Union was my game," says Ontong of his earlier sporting activities.

"It wasn't until my family came to Melbourne in 1971 that I played as a field player in Soccer.

"Although Rugby Union was my first love, when I came to Australia and saw how poor Rugby was in Melbourne, I decided to play more Soccer than Rugby.

"It all started with a pub team called Mitchum where I spent three happy years, before joining Mooroolbark in 1971."

Ontong has seen the NSL at close range for the past decade and his

observations on the state of the National League are far from complimentary.

"The standard's dropped alarmingly since the early years.

"There is no team today to match the Marconi's and Sydney City's from the first two seasons."

"The game has become less physical, too" adds Ontong.

"In the earlier years every team had its hard men like Col Bennett, Peter Wilson and Eddie Thomson — today few teams have hard men.

"I don't believe we have the quality players today like Jimmy Rooney, Jim Hermiston and Ray Richards.

"And I believe by chopping and changing the league, we have lost the public.

"We need simply a first and second division league with a normal promotion and relegation — something the public can understand."

Ontong, who lives with his wife Sherrett and three year old daughter Nicole in the leafy Canberra suburb of Latham, sees this year as his last in top Soccer.

"I have a responsible position in the compensation department of the Ministry for Defence and the job entails a lot of interstate travel.

"As you get older your priorities change with the family responsibility and I really don't see myself devoting the hours of training in future years."

But that doesn't stop Ontong rating Canberra's chances this year.

"If John Bourke is the regular scorer he has been in Scotland, we are in with a good chance of a top five place.

"I'd like to finish the game on a high note — and maybe this will be Canberra's year."

For those who have admired the likeable and courageous Ontong over the years we could also add we hope it is Paul Ontong's year.



PAUL ONTONG in action for Canberra City.

CANBERRA CITY YOUTH TEAM



Back Row: left to right: Doug Marcinia, Fabrizio Florese, Nick Moulis, David Hargreaves, Ricky Kozjak, Mike Black (coach) David Borella, Dorio Biancolin, Dena Grandy, Tony Lemezina, Gabriel Esposito (physico).

Front Row: Paul Allen, Garry Applebee, Gardner Murray, Mark Tosic, Tony Giannasca, Mark Reils, Allan Rankine, Brian Watkins, Gus Cerro.

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**THE
ORIGINAL
AND BEST**

With Greg Russell

STOWELL HAS PLAN TO UPSET NSW

QUEENSLAND coach Bruce Stowell believes he has hit on a plan which could reverse last year's result in the annual interstate clash with New South Wales.

The States meet at Perry Park on Sunday, May 11 and Queensland is hoping to avenge a 3-1 loss to the Blues last year.

"We are going to attack them in areas where they never thought they would be attacked," Stowell said.

Stowell, last year's National under 16 coach, has repeatedly studied last year's game and believes his Maroons made a mistake in allowing NSW to play the ball at the back.

He says the Blues gradually made ground as Queensland funnelled back and by the time it came to shutting them down, it was too late.

With that in mind, Stowell says he is likely to pick mobile players who are willing to run and jockey their opponents.

But, it is almost certain his squad will be very similar to that which

toured Fiji last year, and that means a near all-Lions line-up.

The Richlands NSL club provided nine players to the touring 15 which won two games, including a win over the Fiji national team. It had eight players in the 14 on the interstate game team sheet last year.

Stowell will name his initial 16-man squad within a fortnight after watching the annual intercity clash between Brisbane and Ipswich. The match is the prime selection opportunity for Premier League players.

"I will be picking a squad based on the people I know and what I have seen this year, but I have got to seriously look at the squad which went away last year and did so well," Stowell said.

"They know what I want and are willing to work and I hope that will

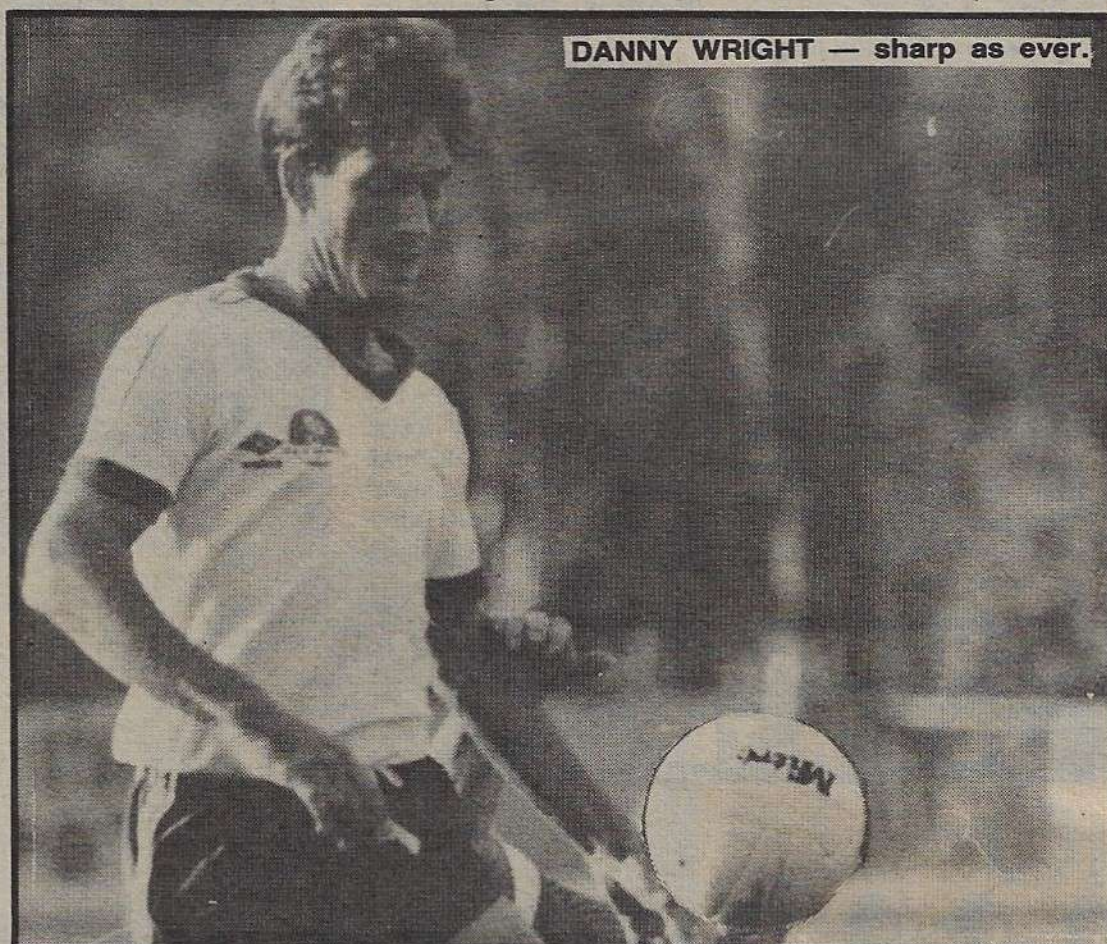
show up in the State game."

While Danny Wright is as sharp as ever, Stowell again will find it difficult to find him partners and may have to delve into the Premier League again. Coalstars' Dave Wheel-

er was a success with the Maroons last year, as was Ipswich United's Ron Millman. But Millman this season is transferring out of the top Queensland competition to Redlands United, who play in the next step down, intermediate league.

But, if Stowell's comments are read between the lines, Millman can expect to be in the Maroon colours again this year.

"I would be foolish not to consider anyone who I feel can do a job for me in the State team," he said.



DANNY WRIGHT — sharp as ever.

LIONS TRIP — WAS IT WORTH IT?

THE success of Brisbane Lions' ambitious pre-season country tour will be decided over the next fortnight.

While the 11-day trip from Brisbane to Cairns and back was largely to promote the club's six-figure sponsor, Fosters, it also was to prepare the team for an early assault on NSL points.

To ensure they best satisfy the 1987 selection criteria, Lions figure they must finish no lower than fifth position, and coach Gordon Arrowsmith believes that unless his side gets off to a good start, it will be near impossible to make up the ground.

Although the tour was physically demanding, due to the extensive bus travel and promotional work involved, Lions emerged undefeated.

The team played six games for 19 goals for and just one against. Results were: 3-0 v Far North Queensland (Cairns); 3-1 v Far North Queensland (Mareeba); 2-0 v Brothers Select (Townsville); 3-0 v Mackay (Mackay); 6-0 v Rockhampton Federation (Rockhampton); 2-0 v Bundaberg Federation (Bundaberg).

Nippy winger Clark Anderson finished the tour as leading scorer with five goals, which included

three in the opening match. But Anderson also suffered a serious lime burn.

Former Soccerroo full-back Alan Niven scored three, all from the penalty spot, while in-form striker Danny Wright also finished the tour with three goals.

Arrowsmith believes the tour created a bond between the players and allowed him to fully assess their abilities and characteristics, on and off the field.

But on the negative side, he still failed to find a replacement for transferred defender Alan Hunter.

Hunter's younger brother David emerged as the best capable to play the position, but looks as better value to the team as a full-back.

The pleasing on-tour form of youngsters and new signings Jarrod Austin and Brett Druery were other bright points of the exercise.



ALAN HUNTER — no replacement

MILOVANOVIC TO LEAVE CITY

FORMER Canberra City Youth International Mike Milovanovic has split with Brisbane City.

The 25-year-old defender asked to be placed on the transfer list only four days before last weekend's Nanda Cup season opener.

Milovanovic, who came to City two years ago, said work commitments had prompted his decision to quit NSL football, but it is known the former team captain had not come to terms for a new contract.

It is also understood he had clashed with coach Jim Hermiston on a number of issues.

Hermiston was loathe to comment on the Milovanovic transfer listing, preferring to stress that there was harmony and determination within his squad.

"You hate to part with players, but sometimes things don't work out. Hopefully Mike will get success elsewhere," he said.

Milovanovic has been placed on the transfer list at \$5000, but almost certainly will switch to a local Premier League club for considerably less — particularly as he doesn't want to leave Brisbane and Lions are not interested in him.

Milovanovic began his NSL career with Canberra City, playing from 1978-80, then had a season at Blacktown before return-

ing to the national capital. A work transfer took Milovanovic to Mackay for a year, during which time he was not retained by Canberra.

That administrative oversight enabled Milovanovic to arrive at Spencer Park as a free agent and he was rushed into a City's NSL defence which was searching for a replacement for towering Scotsman Frank Liddell.

Milovanovic played at

sweeper, stopper and full-back for City and last year, as one of the side's most experienced players, was appointed captain.

He quickly drifted to the outer this season when former Soccerroo defender Steve Perry returned to Spencer Park after a stint with intermediate league club Redlands United.

Perry was rushed back into the team as a sweeper and Milovanovic had no position.



MIKE MILOVANOVIC

FIRST COACH BITES DUST IN QLD

WITH the season still in its early stages, Queensland Soccer has already seen its first coaching casualty.

Premier League club Grange Thistle and its coach John Burnett have parted after just a two-month stint. Burnett has been replaced by Kim Cox, a former Sunshine Coast coach.

Burnett came to Lanham Park this year after guiding Wynnum to the intermediate league championship and grand final and promotion back to the top Premier League.

But, despite some promising pre-season performances, including a four goal win in the XXXX pre-season tournament, the new partnership did not blossom.

Thistle officials said work commitments prompted Burnett to quit.

"John was tied up with work until 10 o'clock most nights and he had to rely on people to get to training," Thistle football manager Barrie Allison said.

Thistle officials first offered the coaching job to their favourite son, former first team midfielder Steve Dolan, but Dolan has committed himself to colts and junior rep teams this year and declined.

In appointing Cox it renewed a Nambour Reds link with Thistle official George Pagan. Cox was a defender in Pagan's 1982 State League Reds team.

While Pagan is fully aware of Cox's playing abilities, he is at Lanham Park for coaching only — and in that department his credentials look good.

Cox, a level two coach, led Buderim Wanderers to the Sunshine Coast premiership and grand final double last season as well as snaring the Qantas Amateur Cup from fancied Brisbane and Gold Coast opposition.

LIONS AND CITY FOR FINAL

THE Queensland Soccer Federation's XXXX pre-season tournament is drawing towards a predictable finale.

As expected, the two national league clubs won their groups to advance to this week's semi-finals, and if all things go to plan, Brisbane City and Lions should meet in next Wednesday's final and contest the \$7,000 prizemoney.

But, the tournament has not been without controversy.

The Brusasco Line, which provides for no offside and no backpasses in the 25m end zone, has provided plenty of goals but also plenty of confusion, and the referees were largely at fault.

Controversy also hit Lions in the final qualifying games. The club opted to play its Premier League team rather than the NSL side, which was fatigued after its North Queensland tour.

That decision bought condemnation from other clubs who had lost to the NSL side or whose chances of qualifying to the semis may have been affected. Ipswich United even went as far as to officially complain.

But overall, if the XXXX pre-season proved anything, it was that the standard of QSF football so far this season is disappointing. So many teams turned in average performances and the league title looks wide open.

With \$10,000 up for grabs for the grand final winner, there could be some hurried buying and rebuilding over the next few weeks.

MELITA EAGLES MY TIP FOR NSW HONOURS

ANY team which can head Melita Eagles will win this year's NSW State League and demand entry to the new national competition.

Melita has indicated this with its excellent form which took it to the semi-finals of the Ampol Cup.

Its respectable 1-0 loss to Sydney Olympic in the play-off for third and fourth place minus Ray Farrugia, Billy Griffiths, Derek Laing and Wayne Farnsworth, four of their best players, indicates the strength of the Melita squad.

The Melita club in every way seems a worthy contender for the new National League.

As with St George BSC, it has a fine and improving stadium, plus an experienced and stable administration.

Possibly the one drawback, like Saints, is a limited crowd base.

This problem highlights the remarkable achievements of both Saints and lately Melita, to build the excellent organisations and stadia enjoyed by both clubs.

The current coach of Melita, Denis Hoggart, is not well known to many people.

He is a Scotsman who played with Sydney Prague and at one time was involved in Sydney City's youth scheme working with the Southern Districts junior clubs.

Denis runs his own business and has impressed me for several years with his knowledge of the game and organisational ability.

Indeed, I recommended him to Bankstown a year or two ago, but he was not taken on as coach.



SAYS MIKE JOHNSON

Subsequently he joined up with Raul Blanco, as his assistant at Melita.

With Raul departed from Melita and Australia, Denis has seized with determination the chance offered to him as first team coach.

He has assisting him another Scot, Jimmy Gallagher, formerly coach of Riverwood, doing well there, especially in the early years.

Scotsmen seem to have been well appreciated by the Melita following.

Apart from the current coaches, Kenny Wilson also hails from that country and has returned to Melita after spells with St George and Sydney Olympic.

Strong as they are, Melita will not be unaware of the potential of Polonia, Rockdale Illinden and possibly Sutherland to press them for the title.

Although without Melita's results in the Ampol Cup, Atti Abonyi has assembled a group of talented and experienced players at Rockdale.

He feels they will do well for him in the competition.

The transient nature of our Soccer at this time is seen with Rockdale a contender for National League representation, following entry into Federation ranks just a few short years ago.

Manly and Penrith will

look to this as hope for them also this year.

Manly, particularly, have worked hard to build a solid administration, ground and club rooms which they hope could take them into the higher echelons of our Soccer.

The incentive of National League status is an enormous motivational

force for all these clubs.

This drive for improvement would be lost if, as some people suggest, we scrap the National League.

The National League is the best thing that ever happened to Soccer in this country.

Just ask Melita how upset they were when they were relegated from the NSL.

THE VEST WORD



NSW State Coach, ALAN VEST
writes exclusively for ASW

STATE TEAMS

NSW Amateur Federation have announced their coaching appointments for their state teams at U/13, U/14 and U/15 level.

The national championships are held at various venues throughout Australia and this year the U/13's are in Perth the U/14 in Surfers Paradise and the U/15's in Canberra.

After last year's clean sweep for NSW with all three age groups winning national titles they are again looking for similar success. Because of the U/16 Oceania group championships in August in Taiwan, the U/15 championships have been brought forward from August to May.

This means that U/15 coach Max Groll has his potential squad in training earlier than usual and will have a three day camp at Valentine Park preceding Easter. Max has done a

fine job with his squad and together with manager John Hedison will be looking for three wins in a row as they won the U/13 championship in 1984 and the U/14 championship in 1985.

Greg Ankudinoff has kept his squad together frequently after their success last year and he will be looking for another title after their resounding championship win last year, scoring 37 goals and only conceding 1 goal.

At U/13 level the new coach is Ian Lloyd and he'll be trialling literally hundreds of kids before his squad is finalised. So the young NSW squads are looking very healthy indeed and shaping up for another top year.



However, it's a vital year and all clubs will be desperate for success and Leichhardt and Blacktown City will be intent on finishing as high as possible.

The out of town teams, Newcastle, Wollongong, Monaro and Canberra together with Canterbury at this stage look as though they'll be battling to make the top half. But, Soccer a funny game and you can bet before the season is over there will be a few shocks in store.

PRE SEASON

AS the season gets closer to the official league start early pre season form seems to have changed.

This emphasises the idea we talked about earlier of having too intense a training programme too early and getting to a peak before the season even starts. In the tournament that national coach Frank Arok organised the two finalists, St George and Marconi, were both early casualties in the Ampol Cup.

Both look now, though, to be running into form at

the right time. I expect both clubs to figure in the national league championship race.

Sydney City are another club who went early in the Ampol but, I still think they'll definitely figure in the championship race. Together with Sydney Olympic and Sydney Croatia, the two form teams, those clubs could make up the top five.



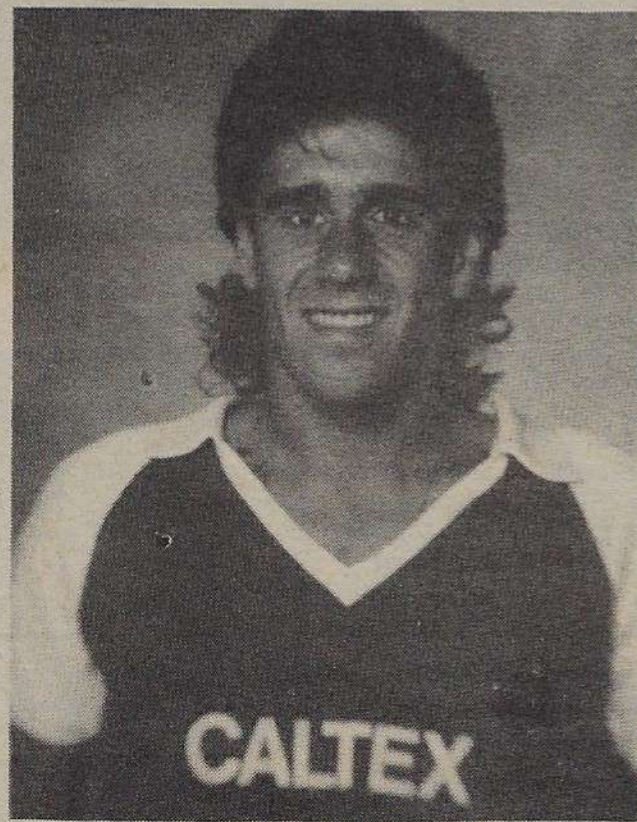
KENNY WILSON

IMMIGRATION PROBLEM?

Newman, Psaltis & Co., Solicitors of Level 59, MLC Centre, Sydney will accept instructions in immigration matters and also other areas of Law.

For Appointments —

221 1614



PJER MARJANOVIC

FOCUS ON AVALA'S

PJER MARJANOVIC

BORN: 23.10.1964 BIRTH PLACE: France

Parents immigrated to Australia when he was a small boy. At the age of 13 he went to Yugoslavia to learn Soccer.

He was coached by professional coaches.

From the beginning he played in the Serbian Youth League. Later on he played for F.K. BELGRADE in the first team then played for F.K. CUKARCKI in the Serbian League.

He returned to Australia 16 months ago. Last year he played for Wollongong Macedonia and was a key player and played a big part in the winning of the championship. He is a very skilful player is going to be very big asset to Avala.

FOCUS ON

GORAN ATLAGIC

BORN: 19.1.57

He is an Avala junior.

He has played with Avala juniors at U/14, U/15, U/16 level and played in the Third Grade in 1984. In 1985 at the beginning of the season he was promoted to the first team and played all year in the side. He is a defender and a very strong player.

CATLIN SIGNS WITH MANLY

BY FRANK COLETTA

FORMER APIA Leichhardt goalkeeper, BOB CATLIN last week signed for State League outfit Manly Warringah.

Catlin was taken to the seashores haven for a yet undisclosed fee. Meanwhile Jim Campbell, the scheming midfielder has re-signed and in his limited appearances so far this season has played well albeit as a striker.

experience in Australia also when he played for Adelaide City in the NSL two years ago.

On the other side of the coin the club has lost Ian Barker and midfielder Jebrail.

With Archie Blue in charge a coach who is very popular with the players Manly may well have a good season.

Ian Foy has also re-signed after contemplating retirement while 19-year-old Wayne Pierce will remain also. There is uncertainty however over John Dick who is talking about retirement but may give in to the wishes of the club to stay on another year.

Another good signing by the Manly club is the acquisition of English club Swindon Town player Paul Marshall, he has had

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THE WOMENS SOCCER SCENE

WOMEN MUST THINK!

BY UWE BRACHLOW

WOMENS Soccer in NSW at present is at the crossroads and it is time some hard thinking was done.

The situation with the AWSA and the national team withdrawal has been blown out of all proportions and is being shown as a political fight between NSW and AWSA.

I can categorically deny this on the part of NSW as I have been party to all

official NSW discussions on the matter.

The quicker people stop using the papers to print incomplete and misleading information and releasing what is confidential correspondence the better for all concerned.

The effort should be spent in alleviating the stress of the financial burden to these national team players so that this situation does not occur again.

I think it is also time one of the players was

heard. They are the only people who really had to make a sacrifice. Here is a letter written by one of the players and I personally know that this player is very distressed that she is in the position of having to withdraw from the national team.

LETTER FROM ONE OF THE PLAYERS

FIRSTLY, I would like to apologise to my coach Fred Robins for my unfortunate withdrawal. Later in this letter I shall give a full explanation.

Secondly, I am sick to death with my team-mates and I wearing the blame for the current standing of womens' Soccer on the list of national sports. It seems no-one is willing to face reality in this matter, except the players.

I do not appreciate being told "You should just be grateful you have the chance to play for Australia." I am grateful but, at the same time I believe I have earned it and for that matter, I'm still earning.

Like every other national team member in womens' Soccer, or any sport, we constantly sacrifice our social lives, job promotions, holidays and personal time to train the living daylights out of ourselves to maintain and improve our standards.

I cannot speak for my team-mates, although many would agree, but, I would time and time again take leave without pay to play for Australia or for that matter quit my job if it is the only way I can get the time to tour.

Many athletes in other sports do the same. However, these athletes pay no more than one third of the total cost of each tour. They also get to keep all their gear (i.e. tracksuits, strips, water polo caps etc).

In the 10 years of Australian women's Soccer teams, I believe on only two occasions players have been allowed to keep their strips and only once has the national body subsidised a tour to any major extent. I firmly believe if we are to continue to represent Australia at international level we must do so in the same manner as other sports. If they can do it, so can we.

Perhaps people don't understand how disheartening it is to give your all for your country in an event, such as the unofficial World Cup in Taiwan, only to find back home only a handful of people even knew you went.

No publicity at all to recognise the achievement of playing for Australia. Surely we deserve some recognition for the sacrifices we endure in order to play and represent Australia. Every other sport does. After all the national side is supposed to be the "be all and end all" of any sport.

On the financial side, I fully understand that

in the country's present economical situation, sponsorships are hard to come by. But, the question has to be asked... why have most other amateur sports managed to obtain substantial sponsorships to help them?

On a personal note, I shall give full explanation and open my personal life for those executives and supporters who cannot just accept my word.

I am in a very tight financial situation, as are my team-mates. Each month my expenses cost me \$650. Broken down this only covers rent (\$280), food (\$100), petrol (\$700) and a personal loan (\$200).

In my hand, I receive \$750-\$800 max/month. Simple mathematics show I don't have a lot left to spend or save. On top of this, it is unfortunate that car rego and insurance were due in December and February respectively.

Add to this, \$400 for mechanical repairs necessary to keep the car on the road so I could work.

I had to borrow \$375 to pay the deposit for the tour. After Christmas and the national titles in Melbourne not much money was left in the back accounts.

I took a second job to clear debts and try to raise the money for the tour. I do not like missing out on playing for Australia. But, the financial straw is to great under the present situation.

I have quit my job and will return home to the country to try and reduce the cost of living. I will travel weekly to the Sydney competition to play and train in the hope I will once again play for Australia.

As far as the "Mass Withdrawal" is concerned, my team-mates are in similar situations although we tried until literally the last minute to raise the funds.

The reasons for meeting with the NSW WASF executive was to get their support because we feared exactly what has happened. Threats from officials such as:— loss of deposits, black names around the country and worst of all, clouds over any further representative honours.

For what? Trying until the last minute to represent Australia. I wasn't aware only the rich were allowed this honour.

AMANDA LANGLAR

THAT'S ENOUGH GIRLS

I do not think I need to comment on this letter, although I am sure we will receive another reply. How much money is spent on other items at AWSA — such as talent identification squads (who never play anyone) and coaching camps (I have yet to have verified that there has been any such animal).

I think enough has been now printed on this matter and I hope that the public will be able to see that there are no right or wrongs in this matter — only a situation that needs to be resolved.

On the local front, we have a lot of interesting developments one of which could mean that the girls and women players will have an even better access to Valentine Park at Parklea but more on that later.

The NSL season started on the 23rd March with a big Gala Day at South Park with 12 teams entering, including some guest teams. I will print a run-down of the day next week. The NSL has also appointed coaches for the representative sides and these were in line with the appointments made at NSW WASF. The senior squad has Alan Lytton as its manager and the youth squad will be managed by me.

Assisting Alan and myself will be John Doyle as the coach and Ann McDoven as the assistant manageress. There will be some exhibition games played on 27th April and 8th June but I will release those details as they become finalised.

The League starts on April 6 and the draw was made at a function at North Ryde.

A number of players enjoyed a good evening and all were looking forward to the new season.

International Profile

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

No.8

LEANNE PRIESTLEY



LEANNE PRIESTLY, Queensland's crack striker, is about to make a "comeback" to the international arena for Australia.

After having to miss out on selection in the National team over the last two years because of College-study commitments, the attractive, happy-go-lucky Leanne is now ready for action again.

Born December 27, 1963, Leanne a schoolteacher at Springwood Road Primary, South of Brisbane, first gained selection for the Australian team to play against New Zealand in 1981.

Two years later, Leanne again toured with Australia, this time to Hawaii to compete in the Royal Hawaiian Women's Soccer Tournament.

A highly talented, well-balanced player, Leanne's re-appearance for Australia will be most welcomed, especially by Northern NSW's powerful front-runner, Renaye Iserief.

A girl with a wonderful disposition, Leanne started to play Soccer at the tender age of just 10.

But she was almost lost to the code had it not been for Leanne's Mother.

"As a kid I was a real tomboy and wanted to play Rugby League would you believe? But my Mum wouldn't hear of it and sent me away to play Soccer with my cousin Pauline," Leanne laughingly lamented.

Greatly disappointed that she had to miss out on the Australian team for New Caledonia in 1983 and again in 1984 when the national side flew to Taiwan because of her studies at Teachers' College, Leanne's energetic enthusiasm has now been greatly stimulated.

"New Zealand has always been our neighbouring "enemy" and it will be great to clash with them again. We have a few scores to settle you might say."

National coach, Fred Robins, does not hide the fact that he is elated to have Leanne back in the national squad.

"She is a wonderful player to watch and a pleasure to coach," Fred told ASW last night.

BORN: December 27, 1963.

BIRTHPLACE: Toowoomba, Queensland.

OCCUPATION: Primary school-teacher.

PLAYING POSITION: Striker.

CLUBS PLAYED FOR: Mt Gravatt, Salisbury, Annerley, Grange Thistle.

CURRENT CLUB: Eastern Suburbs.

FAVOURITE WOMEN PLAYERS: Joanne and Kerry Millman.

FAVOURITE MEN OVERSEAS PLAYER: England's previous captain, Kevin Keegan.

BIGGEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR CAREER: Jim Selby and Fred Robins.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN YOUR CAREER: "Having to miss the trips to Noumea in 1983 and Taiwan in 1984 because of my studies."

AMBITIONS IN WOMEN'S SOCCER: "Hopefully to be able to gain selection for the Women's World Cup in 1988."

SUPERSTITIONS IF ANY: None.

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Jogging, Gym-work and tennis. Was involved with Athletics in earlier years.

FAVOURITE FILM STARS: Robert Redford and Richard Gere.

PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LOVE TO MEET: Richard Gere.

MAKE OF CAR OWNED: Laser Sports.

FAVOURITE T.V. PROGRAMME: The Flintstones.

WHAT IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO IMPROVE SOCCER FOR WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA: "More publicity and major sponsors."

THOUGHTS ON THE COMING OCEANIA CUP IN N.Z.: "It is very exciting for me to play at that level, especially against New Zealand. I hope all goes well with our young side over in Christchurch."

WHO WILL WIN THE 1986 WORLD CUP IN MEXICO: Brazil or Denmark.

BEST WISHES TO NATIONAL TEAM

By JOHN ECONOMOS

THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S Soccer squad assembled last weekend in Canberra at the Australian Institute of Sport for a week's term of full-time training.

The national squad which departs this week for New Zealand, will polish off its preparational work for next week's second Oceania Cup Tournament in Christchurch.

This is a historic occasion for our girls as it is a brilliant first for Women's Soccer.

For the squad members who had not seen the Institute before, they were in for a real buzz.

The AIS is a huge, magnificent complex spanning over many acres in the National Capital.

The mega-structures on

the site incorporate ultra-modern gymnasiums, heated Olympic swimming pools with glassed-in observation boxes beneath the surface, one of the fastest running tracks in the world, a super-modern Sports Stadium, a magnificent indoor Basketball Stadium, a Human Performance laboratory, tennis courts, a medical base, and Indoor Soccer court as well as an outdoor Soccer field of polygrass.

It is a satellite sports village which one would expect to find in the USA or the USSR, not in Australia.

National coach, Fred Robins could not possibly wish for a better training environment to prepare his girls for the Oceania Cup.

As I said, the girls who didn't know what to expect were really knocked-out by it all.

Susan Monteath, Joanne Millman, Renaye Iserief, Theresa Jones and Karen Menzies, the senior squad members, relished the magnificent splendour of the whole Institute as they threw themselves into their twice daily training sessions with added enthusiasm.



SUSAN MONTEATH at University of Queensland conducting tests for Soccer players. Susan is seen here on the Treadmill for tests on maximum oxygen intake.



THE JUNIOR GAME

with TONY RACITI



STATE COACHES SHOULD BE NEUTRAL

NSW Amateur Soccer Federation officials are receiving widespread criticism throughout all sections of the junior code due to the manner in which players and coaches are selected for representative sides.



SAYS TONY RACITI

Executive members of the NSWASF unfortunately still insist on selecting coaches who have an affiliation with a local club.

The problems created by such selections would be obvious, and State officials should in future aim to appoint coaches who are not involved with the coaching of club sides.

The excuse that most of the coaches with suitable qualifications are coaching at club level is not factual, as there are at least 100 top line junior and even senior coaches who are not involved with the local junior, or for that matter senior club scene.

The appointment of Alan Vest to take charge in recent years of the State Under 16 squad has been a step in the right direction.

Within this particular age group there has been very few problems and the

organisation of this group has been excellent.

Vest is totally neutral, he has no ties with any club and as such selections and decisions are not 'clouded' by friendships and previous involvement with certain groups in the junior game who are only interested in pushing their own cause.

Most Youth League clubs in the State refuse point blank to appoint any coach or manager if they have a son in that respective team.

Clubs who adopt this policy are the very clubs who year in year out are always successful on and off the field.

The clubs who persist with parental influence within their ranks struggle, and although these parents mean well, they simply have not got the experience nor the back-

ground to be in charge of talented youngsters.

Our leading clubs have had the foresight to make changes, and the NSWASF should follow suit.

No coach, manager or official involved with a local club should be appointed to a State position.

In NSW we have dozens of ex-players and coaches, who are crying out to be involved in the game once again, at any level.

It is there very people that the NSWASF should be looking at to guide the fortunes of our State sides.

Week in week out they would be able to attend Youth League matches over a number of months, and from there make an assessment.

At present we have a situation where a State coach is involved with his own Youth League side, and can't possibly have the time to be able to view other matches.

NSW president Ian Holmes said this week that his body had in his opinion appointed coaches with the qualifications and the ability to be in charge of representative sides.

"Our State record over the years speaks for itself," Holmes said.

Recently many clubs and players have been disillusioned that the Under 15 State coach has not conducted trials to select his squad.

Under 15 State coach Max Groll said that he had been in charge of this age group the past two years.

"As such there was no need to conduct trials as I know the ability of every player within this age group," Max said.

"Also this year the Under 15 national titles will be played in Canberra during the May school holidays.

"Due to this I have not got the necessary time to conduct trials, but as I've said I know the players in this age group, and trials were not necessary."

One would have to agree with out Under 15 State coach on this point as the Under 15 titles have been brought forward by at least six months so as to give the national Under 16 coach the opportunity to select a squad to contest the preliminary rounds of the Kodak World Cup later this year.

Unfortunately some boys because of this have been denied the opportunity to represent their State and subsequently the chance of gaining selection in the national side.

"Realistically I could select two equal sides to represent NSW," Max Groll added.

"The talent in this age group is simply outstanding.

"There are at least 30 boys who have the ability and talent to be selected.

"But I can only select sixteen players, and as such my hands are tied." Obviously there would

be a number of players who deserve to gain selection, and will in the end miss out.

But ASW must agree with Max Groll.

NSW has an abundance of junior talent in each

respective age group, let alone the Under 15s, but missing selection in a representative side is just a reality of the game.

Criticism of player selections are not justified, but the NSWASF must

accept criticism if they persist in selecting coaches, and for that matter managers and officials, who are affiliated with local clubs.

Such selections are definitely not in the best interests of the code.

JUNIOR CHAT

AS yet the swimming pool at the Parklea complex remains in the same disgraceful condition it has been over the past month.

Also, benches are yet to be provided for players and officials.

I have no doubt that if national junior titles were being played at the complex, officials looking after the ground would make absolutely certainly that all facilities were provided.

Obviously I am talking about double standards. Is this the case?

THE NSWASF next month will devote an entire weekend to discuss the future of the game at grass roots level.

The major purpose of the meeting is to look at the aims, goals and priorities, and which direction Junior Soccer is heading.

NSWASF president Ian Holmes said that his organisation needed a complete and professional development programme.

"We need to also look at a planned administration structure as well as a projected financial base," Holmes said.

Holmes said there was a need to conduct these type of meetings by every sporting organisation.

"If a sport loses its junior base, it is finished," Holmes said.

NO Youth League competition matches will be held over one weekend in May whilst the Under 15 national titles are being played in Canberra.

But the following weekend's matches will be played, and those teams who have players representing NSW will be permitted to forfeit.

ORGANISERS of the Mini Ampol Cup will shortly be writing to all clubs involved in this year's tournament for their comments regarding the staging of the tournament.

Officials are looking for ideas on how to improve the tournament even further, and whether or not the staging of the competition, in late January, early February, meets with the approval of participating clubs.

THE ASF is planning to change the birth dates for all junior Soccer players.

At the moment, a player qualifies for his respective age group from January 1.

The ASF will chance the date to August 1, so as to fall in line with Europe.

Officials are keen to introduce the change for the 1987 season and the Australian National Junior Council is likely to approve the change.

But the ASF will encounter fierce opposition from the NSWASF.

The NSWASF claim

that the system is currently working, so why change? It is hoped that the proposal is given a lot of thought by all parties concerned.

In the end, what does count is not the personal opinion of officials, but the general consensus of all affiliated junior bodies through Australia.

Let them all decide, and not leave the decision to a handful of officials, many of whom have had no involvement with the junior game for quite a number of years.

ASW is led to believe that the NSWASF totally refuses to budge on the issue, and won't hear of any change being made.

NSWASF officials say they will not be bullied by the ASF in implementing the change.

THE administration committee of the NSW Youth League has applied for Marconi Oval on August 1 to stage this year's Metropolitan finals.

Blacktown City's Gabbie Stadium, is the likely play-offs venue



WE NEED YOU NOW! To give us your junior news, photos, logo's etc. Send to ASW Juniors C/o TONY RACITI P.O. Box 6, Haberfield, NSW 2045.

APIA YOUTH LEAGUE

Trials for APIA's Under 13

Youth League are being held every Monday and Thursday at Leichhardt Oval No. 2 (next to swimming pools)

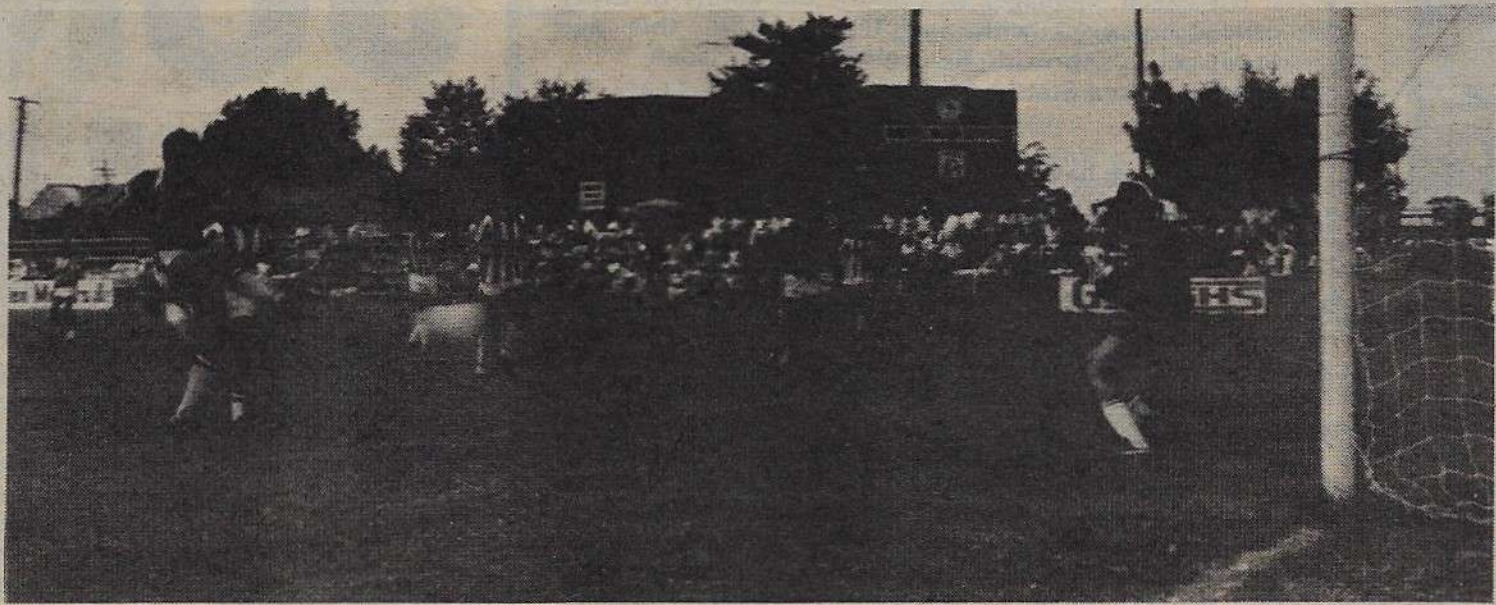
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Players are also required for Under 8's and Under 16s

Any inquiries:

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APIA — JUVE Juniors through the Lens



Melbourne Juventus Under 13 Squad



APIA Leichhardt Under 14 Squad



ILLAWARRA JOTTINGS

TARRAWANNA won the Corrimal Leagues Club knockout final for the first time in their 20-year history when they beat Warilla Wanderers 2-1 in the final.

Gary Masters' side collected the \$1200 first prize money but they had to battle 30-degree heat and dogged opposition from Warilla.

Warilla took the lead after 14 minutes when Tarrawanna full-back Greg Eager gave away a free kick on the edge of his penalty area.

Free-kick specialist Steve Ristevski netted with a shot from 25m and goalkeeper David Curley was completely deceived.

It was an almost identical situation when Claude Cellini powered home a free kick to equalise for Tarrawanna early in the second half.

Tarrawanna always looked the winners from that stage but it wasn't until 14 minutes from the end they made sure.

Cellini miskicked almost on the goal line with no defender near him but the ball rolled to teammate Daryl Quirk who made no mistake from close range.

Aris made sure of third prize money when they beat Cringila 2-1 in the early game.

The only consolation for Cringila was that they did score a goal after failing to achieve this in five meetings with Aris last season.

THE Illawarra season starts in earnest on Satur-

day amidst a drastic shortage of referees.

Referees' spokesman Phil Torpy told ASW 54 officials are needed to fully man the three divisions, but only just over 20 have signed up.

"Things are really desperate as the ISA wants to have each of the six premier league games fully covered with referees and linesmen," Torpy said.

It could get to the stage where we have second division games being controlled by club officials and this is likely to lead to bother."

The referees have offered courses to likely recruits without success and the strange thing is that very few Illawarra ex-players take up refereeing to stay involved with the game.

NO wonder they call it the silly season . . .

Premier League club Aris had to play three games in as many days as part of their pre-season build-up.

Two weeks before the premiership was to start, Aris played in the Allfab \$200 knockout on a Friday night, the Corrimal League Club knockout on the Saturday and, would you believe, a friendly in Gosford on the Sunday.

Coach Robert Fryer elected to rest most of his

best players for the Friday night match and paid the penalty.

Aris went down 7-0 to Shellharbour, striker Kevin O'Donnell getting five of the goals.

On the Saturday Fryer's team beat Cringila 2-1 to collect minor prize money in the Corrimal knockout.

No-one was too interested in what happened in Gosford.

FERNHILL coach Gerry Walker is ready to welcome back goalkeeper Alan Duncan with open arms.

Duncan is certain to rejoin his old club after going through the Ampol Cup series with State League Fairy Meadow.

Without doubt the top 'keeper in Illawarra last season, Duncan failed to impress with Fairy Meadow.

He looked very shaky at times in his new surroundings and is only one of the district players who tried out with Fairy Meadow but didn't make it.

One or two of the players who have retreated back to district ranks were amazed at the discipline dished out by coach Mike Johnson.

Something about not being able to handle the heat in the kitchen?

ADELAIDE CITY BACK TO THE STYLE OF 1977

BY VIC MIGLIACCIO

IF Adelaide City's brilliant 2-0 win over Rothmans League club Beograd Woodville in the SA Ampol Cup Final at Hindmarsh Stadium is any indication on how they are about to perform in this coming NSL season, they will be hard to beat.

The last time I saw City play that brand of Soccer was back in 1977, the year that the NSL started, and City finished a gallant fourth on the league table.

Credit should go to new coach and former Adelaide City midfielder Zoran Matic, who has had the team for only four months and has transformed it from an ordinary team to an outfit working like a well-oiled machine.

Beograd went down but they were not disgraced by their performance. They fought hard all night but found that the NSL side was too hard to match.

Energetic in-form former Youth Soccer striker, Joe Mullen, was the hero of the match. He scored both goals in the seventh and 49th minutes to end the competition as top goalscorer, with six goals to his credit.

At the Adelaide City clubrooms after the match, where over 200 people gathered to celebrate the victory, I asked coach Zoran Matic what City's next move would be and his reply was "to thrash Heidelberg in Melbourne on Sunday March 30th."

But he did admit he has still not finalised his two full back positions.

QUALITY YOUNGSTER

CRAIG WELDON, who specialises as a left-back and central defender, represented the Riverina in the NSW CHS Inter-Regional Championships.

A 15 year old at North Albury High School, Craig represented NSW Country U/16 and also was invited to become a train on player with the full NSW U/16 squad.

His strongest qualities are his speed, skill on the ball, ability to read the game well and his clever take-offs for difficult headers.

Craig started with Albury Hotspurs at the age of 6 years.

Last year he coached his club's U/9 team until school commitments caught up with him. Quite ambitious with his studies, Craig aims, after leaving school, to do economics and law.



The Adelaide City side celebrate their winning of the 1986 Ampol Cup.

MAXWELL SMART SA MIDFIELDER

THE man to watch this coming NSL season is Adelaide City strong man Steve Maxwell.

He was named "man of the tournament" in New Delhi in January when the South Australian State team won the rich DCM Trophy.

Steve has carried his top form into the Ampol Cup series.

Maxwell, nicknamed "Conan the Barbarian" was born in Adelaide on 17-1-65 and joined Adelaide City from West Torrens Birkalla in 1982.

The young midfielder/striker has been among the most outstanding players in the NSL for the past two years.

He has been a member of the national Youth squad and represented SA U/21's in 1982.

Maxwell was a member of the state youth side which won the national titles in 1981.

— Vic Migliaccio



STEVE MAXWELL



HERO of the Ampol Cup Final Joe Mullen proudly displays the showpiece.

Wide World of Football



KICK FOR KENNY

KENNY DALGLISH cops a blast from ace referee Keith Hackett in Hackett's autobiography.

The 1981 FA Cup Final ref writes: "Dalglish will appeal for a free kick when he has perpetrated the foul. From a ref's point of view, he is difficult to handle."

But Dalglish also collects a compliment this week from former Liverpool team-mate Graeme Souness who sums up Dalglish thus: "In my seven years at Liverpool,

Kenny was nothing less than brilliant. It's a man's game being a striker — the hardest job of all — and I don't think Kenny has ever been given the credit he deserves."



KENNY DALGLISH — copping kick

POLES DESERT

POLISH internationals Janusz Torowski and Jaroslav Biernat have tossed away their chance of playing for Poland in the World Cup.

The pair played in an indoor tournament in West Germany and liked the place so much, they decided to defect.

They applied for politi-

cal asylum and signed to play for struggling Eintracht Frankfurt, the club Socceroo David Mitchell plays for.

As usual, the Polish

F.A. telexed a protest to FIFA and, again as usual, FIFA slapped on the normal two-year ban on the players.

BIG MAL IN MORE TROUBLE

MALCOLM ALLISON has had and lost many big coaching jobs but he must feel the odds are stacked against him in his problems in Kuwait.

Big Mal is Kuwait's national coach but there is a FIFA ban on the Kuwait Football Association and this has caused chaos there.

In fact, Allison is being paid good money to do nothing—and he rarely leaves his hotel room. He is tipped to return to England soon.

Also with him on the

plane will be his assistant, former Arsenal star George Armstrong, and Kuwait's Under 18 coach, ex-Blackburn winger Mike Ferguson.

"We really are wasting our time," said Ferguson. It seems we got caught up in the politics surrounding the Kuwait FA."

BLAME PRICE SLUG

THE West German Football Association (DFB) conducted a survey to discover why spectators were staying away from the game.

The majority blamed (a) high admission prices, (b) rowdiness, (c) poor football.

Other factors mentioned were preference for watching TV and being actively engaged in sport as a player.

'BRING BRYAN BACK' ADVISES KEEGAN

KEVIN KEEGAN reckons England should move their skipper and star midfielder Bryan Robson into the back four.

Keegan reasons that, with Robson playing in central defence with a roving commission, England's biggest World Cup headache would be solved.

"Robson would fill in perfectly as partner to Terry Butcher," says Keegan. "The England captain has the pace to get forward with the ball, has good defensive qualities and can win the ball and use it."

"He could organise things in defence to make England very difficult to beat."

"They already are a hard side to beat but with Robson at the back and Peter Shilton behind him,

our team would have a iron-clad look."

Keegan also points out that, since Robson has had a bad run of injury, he is a natural target for opponents in the midfield but nobody would mark him if he played as sweeper.

Trevor Francis, written off as past his best by many critics, should still hold a spot in England's front line according to Keegan.

"Francis is a 'burst' player. In Mexico we don't need 90 minute workers in the heat and altitude, but a quick burst can settle a match," says the former English skipper.

BOAT BOY BLUES

CHIEN HA, the young boat boy from Vietnam, hit the headlines when he was given an apprenticeship with first division Arsenal.

It was like a dream come true for the kid who escaped from Saigon and sailed the South China sea to freedom.

But the romantic story does not have a happy ending. Arsenal released Chien Ha from his agreement and he is now trialling in the less opulent atmosphere of Port Vale.

It appears the boy wanted Arsenal to look after his father who has been on the dole since arriving in England and who doesn't speak a word of English.

"No deal," said Arsenal.

ENGLAND MAKE PEACE

ENGLAND want to get the citizens of Monterrey on their side before the World Cup qualifying matches are played in that city.

The last time England played in Mexico in the World Cup, the Mexicans took a strong dislike to the English players and officials and their noisy criticism seriously upset England during their matches.

Remembering this, the English F.A. recently initiated moves to invite the Monterrey club to London for a couple of goodwill games.

Trouble is, that dreadful English weather upset the plan.

The snow and ice has caused such a backlog of fixtures, it looks almost impossible for any first division club to play a friendly against the Mexicans.

At least it was a nice thought.

Now Monterrey could be invited to play the full England side in Monterrey a few days before the World Cup kicks-off.



BRYAN ROBSON — defender

STAPLETON MAY STAY AT UNITED

ALL those people who claim Frank Stapleton is ready to leave Manchester United could be wrong.

The Irish international centre-forward is tipped to rejoin his old club, Arsenal, or move to high-flying Chelsea.

But United boss Ron Atkinson says Stapleton will definitely be offered a new contract when his old one ends this year.

"If he wants to leave, he will be a free agent but we shall certainly give him every opportunity to stay and further his old Trafford career," said Atkinson.

"We would love him to stay," added Atkinson.

ROMERITO'S BRUSH-OFF

THERE are still rumblings of discontent over "player of the year" voting organised by England's World Soccer monthly magazine.

One important omission, which upset South Americans was Romerito, the Paraguayan.

Romerito was named South America's "player of the year" after leading his unfashionable national team to Mexico and the World Cup and taking Fluminense to its third Rio championship in succession.

It is ridiculous that this great player does not rate a mention in the voting.

JUVE'S BIG FOUR

JUVENTUS have a short list of four to take over as top coach from Giovanni Trapattoni — and top of the list is Everton's Howard Kendall.

The other candidates for one of the biggest coaching jobs in club football are Henri Michel, France's World Cup coach, Michel Hidalgo, the previous French national coach and Yugoslavia's Boskov, now with Ascoli. Kendall has two years

to run on a lucrative Everton contract and shows no signs of wanting to leave.

Trapattoni, who made a big impression on all who met him when Juventus toured Australia, is heading back to Milan to coach Inter.

Jim stays

Forest full-back JIM McINALLY has patched up his row with manager **BRIAN CLOUGH** and agreed to come off the transfer list.

The current Forest Player of the Year was lined up for a return to his native Scotland but has instead signed a new three-year contract.

JINX ON GOALIES

SCOTTISH club Stenhousemuir are convinced there's a Jinx on their goalkeepers.

Early in the season, Lindsay Hamilton was sidelined for two months with a serious back injury. Ian Spalding was signed as replacement but he broke a leg and won't play again this season.

Third choice goalkeeper Gary McPhail has now had his spleen removed after falling badly in a training session.



PLATINI

LONDON: The anti-smoking lobby would be reaching for their tranquilisers after an hour in the company of the world's greatest footballer.

Michel Platini is rarely seen off the field without one of those foul-smelling French cigarettes dangling from his lips and still smiles at how as a schoolboy his pals used to laugh at his big ears.

Platini is privately convinced that France have the skill to dominate the 1986 World Cup and become the first Europeans to win in South America.

"Brazil and Uruguay will start favourites, but this year there will be a formidable challenge from Europe. Don't rule out England or the Scots," he says.

Of more immediate concern is Wednesday's second leg of the European Cup quarter-final in which Platini will be urging Juventus to overcome a 1-0 deficit in Turin against Terry Venables' Barcelona.

Platini, who last season masterminded Juventus to the European and world club championships, says simply: "The standard of football in the first leg was a warning to the South Americans that European soccer is reaching new heights.

"If it continues at international level then history could be made in Mexico."

West Bromwich Albion winger **ROBBIE DENNISON** has been put in the shade by brother David, who achieved the unlikely distinction of becoming the first Irish cricketer to hit a century in a one-day match during Ireland's recent tour of Zimbabwe.

HIBS GO FOR DICK

Spurs winger **ALLY DICK** is set to return to Scotland after four years without success at White Hart Lane.

The 20-year-old once had his pick of virtually any club in Britain, but has made only 16 League appearances for Spurs and has not even figured as substitute for the first team this season.

Hibs have already enquired about him and will try again when **TONY GALVIN** and **CHRIS WADDLE** are both fully recovered from injury.

Birmingham's new chairman **BEN WHELDON** is finding that it isn't quite as easy to make financial cutbacks at St. Andrew's as he at first thought.

First he axed a maintenance man and then had to hire a plumber to carry out emergency work. He also gave the chop to the St. Andrew's security firm and within a couple of days someone had broken in to the ground!

QPR defender ALAN McDONALD wasn't too pleased when his wife was quoted as saying that Northern Ireland's qualification for the World Cup Finals would mean they could buy a new washing machine. He was even less pleased when his QPR team-mates gave him the nickname Zennus!

AGE OF CONSENT

YUGOSLAVIA is going to lower its age limit at which players are allowed to leave the country.

Instead of the present limit of 28, they will be allowed to go now at 18.

The reasoning is that good players will leave Yugoslavia earlier and return earlier.

What happens if they decided never to return? It will make a mess of Yugoslavia's international team as well as club football.

SILAS A NEW STAR

SILAS — that's the name of the next Brazilian world star, if we can believe the experts.

A goalscoring forward, Silas played a big part in Sao Paulo's 5-2 aggregate victory over Fluminense when they were crowned Brazil's champion of champions.

Last year, Silas was also in great form with Brazil's squad in the World Youth Championship in the USSR.

According to reports from South America: "Against Fluminense, Silas reduced the opposing defence to rubble, scoring in both legs."

PENAROL SIGNS MORENA

FERNANDO MORENA is returning as a player to Uruguay's Penarol club at the age of 34.

Morena is the most famous of all Penarol stars. He retired to take over as Technical Director of Penarol Juniors, but now has the itch to get into the action again.

Morena is in perfect physical shape and has no fears he'll be quickly back to match fitness.

The World Scoreboard

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Everton	33	20	6	7	73	38	66
Liverpool	34	19	9	6	71	36	66
Man Utd	33	19	6	5	56	27	63
Chelsea	31	18	8	5	49	51	62
Arsenal	31	17	7	7	42	32	58
Sheff Wed	33	16	7	10	51	47	55
West Ham	29	16	6	7	44	27	54
Leeds	34	15	9	10	51	38	54
Newcastle	32	14	10	8	49	47	52
Notts Fst	32	15	5	12	57	47	50
Tottenham	33	13	6	14	51	41	45
Watford	29	12	6	11	48	45	42
Man City	34	11	9	14	38	45	42
Q.P.R.	33	12	5	18	36	53	41
Southampton	33	11	7	15	41	44	40
Coventry	35	9	9	17	44	60	36
Leicester	33	8	10	15	48	61	34
Oxford	33	8	8	17	48	66	32
QPR	33	8	11	16	35	52	29
Aston Villa	33	6	11	16	35	52	29
Birmingham	34	8	4	22	28	53	28
W.B.A.	34	3	9	22	27	76	18

DIVISION TWO

Norwich	33	21	7	5	72	32	70
Portsmouth	32	18	5	9	53	28	59
Wimbledon	32	16	8	8	43	30	56
Charlton	31	16	7	8	56	35	55
Brighton	32	15	7	10	42	42	54
Hull	34	14	10	10	58	49	52
Sheff Utd	33	14	8	11	55	51	50
Crystal P	34	14	7	12	41	40	49
Oldham	34	13	7	14	52	46	46
Stoke	33	11	12	10	54	47	55
Barnsley	32	11	10	11	35	35	43
Grimsby	34	11	10	13	49	52	43
Bradford	31	13	4	14	39	45	43
Millwall	31	12	5	14	45	46	41
Blackburn	34	10	11	13	42	52	40
Shrewsbury	34	11	7	16	42	51	40
Leeds	33	11	7	15	43	55	41
Huddersfield	34	10	10	14	43	57	40
Sunderland	33	9	9	15	35	51	36
Middlesbrough	33	8	8	17	33	45	32
Carlisle	32	8	6	18	33	59	30
Fulham	30	8	5	17	32	44	29

DIVISION THREE

Reading	35	25	4	6	57	39	79
Wigan	32	20	9	7	67	36	69
Derby	32	18	9	5	63	28	63
Plymouth	36	18	8	10	62	45	62
Gillingham	37	16	13	8	65	44	61
Walsall	36	18	6	12	72	48	60
Notts City	34	11	12	11	37	41	54
Doncaster	37	12	11	14	37	41	54
Brentford	36	15	9	12	42	47	54
Bristol C	37	14	11	12	55	51	53
York	37	15	7	15	59	49	52
Blackpool	36	13	11	12	55	40	50
Rotherham	32	10	9	17	47	57	39
Bournemouth	37	12	7	18	52	57	44
Bolton	37	12	7	18	45	50	43
Bristol R	36	9	12	16	41	60	42
Chesterfield	34	9	12	15	40	49	39
Darlington	37	10	9	17	47	57	39
Bury	35	9	17	9	37	53	35
Newport	37	7	14	16	39	56	35
Lincoln	34	8	11	15	43	62	35
Cardiff	37	9	8	20	42	68	35
Swansea	37	9	7	21	34	69	34
Wolves	35	8	6	19	41	74	32

DIVISION FOUR

Swindon	33	24	1	8	52	31	73
Chester	37	19	12	6	70	38	69
Mansfield	33	19	7	7	57	33	64
Port Vale	36	16	13	7	58	31	61
Hartlepool	35	17	8	10	52	42	59
Stockport	37	16	11	10	55	50	59
Oxford	35	15	11	9	62	47	56
Northampton	36	15	7	14	64	44	52

Southend	35	14	8	13	52	54	50
Hereford	35	13	8	14	56	55	47
Tranmere	36	13	7	16	61	54	46
Burnley	36	13	7	16	49	54	46
Rochdale	35	12	10	13	46	54	46
Wrexham	36	13	7	16	53	68	46
Colchester	33	12	9	12	55	48	45
Crewe	36	12	9	15	45	53	45
Halifax	34	11	9	14	49	55	42
Exeter	35	10	12	14	32	43	41
Scunthorpe	35	10	11	14	35	43	41
Aldershot	34	11	6	17	41	52	39
Peterborough	34	8	14	12	41	50	38
Cambridge	37	10	6	21	50	74	36
Torquay	33	9	7	18	31	63	31
Preston	37	7	8	22	40	70	29

ITALY

Avellino v Lecce	2-0
Bari v F'ina	0-1
Juve v Inter	2-0
Milan v Roma	0-1
Pisa v Torino	0-0
S'doria v Como	0-0
Udinese v Napoli	2-0
Verona v Atalanta	0-3

P W D L F A Pts

Juventus	26	16	8	2	39	13	40
Roma	26	17	3	6	44	21	37
Napoli	26	10	11	5	28	20	31
Milan	26	10	10	6	24	19	30
Torino	26	9	10	7	25	20	28
F'ina	26	7	13	6	23	19	27
Inter	26	10	7	9	32	27	

HOLLAND

Haarlem v Rode JC	0-0
Sittard v Venlo	1-1
Ajax v Groningen	1-0
Twente v PSV	1-3
Sp R'dam v AZ'67	0-0
Ex R'dam v MVV	1-0
Utrecht v Deventer	0-0

P W D L F A Pts

PSV	22	19	2	1	67	13	40
Ajax	22	18	1	4	89	23	37
Feyenoord	21	15	2	4	50	27	32
Den Bosch	23	11	6	6	39	22	28

PORTUGAL

Brage v Benfica	1-1
Sporting v G'maraes	3-0
Porto v P'monense	4-0
Boavista v Maritimo	5-2
B'nenses v Setubal	2-2
Aves v Penafiel	2-2
Chaves v Salgueiros	0-2
Academica v Covilha	4-0

P W D L F A Pts

Benfica	25	19	4	2	50	9	42
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Porto	26	19	4	3	57	17	42
Sporting	26	16	6	4	52	16	38
Guimaraes	26	14	7	5	42	25	35

SPAIN

R Madrid v V'dolid	2-1
Celta v Cadiz	1-2
Ujpest v Z'gerszeg	1-1
Sporting v Barcelona	1-1
Sociedad v Hercules	6-0
Betis v Seville	1-0
Valencia v Bilbao	1-2
Espanol v Osasuna	0-1
Racing v At Madrid	2-0
Zaragoza v Las Palmas	4-0

P W D L F A Pts

Re Madrid	30	24	4	1	70	22	52
Barcelona	30	17	8	5	52	27	42
Bilbao	30	16	7	7	41	27	39
R Madrid	30	15	7	8	48	34	37
Zaragoza	30	14	9	7	46	31	37
Sporting	30	11	14	5	31	25	36
Sevilla	30	12	9	9	36	26	33
Sociedad	30	14	5	11	51	42	33

BELGIUM

Waregem v Lierse	1-0
Lokeren v B'schot	2-2
St Liege v Charleroi	8-0
Antwerp v Ghent	4-1
Mechelen v Kortrijk	3-1
Beveren v FC Liege	2-0
Cercle v Moenbek	2-1
W'schei v Cl Bruges	0-1
A'lecht v Seraing	2-0

P W D L F A Pts

A'lecht	30	20	7	3	73	28	47
Cl Bruges	30	19	7	4	63	27	45
St Liege	30	13	10	7	51	28	36
Ghent	30	13	10	7	44	32	36
Beveren	30	13	9	8	46	34	35
Waregem	30	14	6	10	46	30	34

GREECE

Apollon v P'nios	0-0
K'maria v P'naios	2-1
Doxe v PAOK	2-1
Ethnikos v Y'annina	1-1
Iraklis v Larisa	2-0
O'pikios v Aris	3-2
Oti v P'raikos	2-0
Panahaikei v AEK	2-2

P W D L F A Pts

Pnaikos	25	15	5	5	49	25	35
Oti	25	14	4	7	34	23	32
AEK	25	12	7	6	36	23	31

Iraklis	25	12	7	6	29	16	31
Aris	25	10	10	5	32	23	30
Larisa	25	11	6	8	31	22	28
Panionios	25	11	6	8	32	26	28

GARY'S GLITTER FAST FADING

GOALKEEPER Gary has lost his glitter! There are now grave doubts about Gary Bailey, Manchester United's goalkeeper, being selected for the World Cup in Mexico.

For some time, Bailey has been an automatic second choice for England with the hope he could one day displace Peter Shilton.

But things have turned sour for him. He lost his club spot at Old Trafford to Chris Turner who has performed brilliantly for United. And if he is not playing regularly in the first team, how can Bailey win a trip to Mexico for the World Cup?

Alex Stepney, who was United's goalkeeper for 13 years before Bailey, and has been a big help to his successor, said: "Gary is in

a hell of a fix and there is little he can do about it.

"Turner has been superb, Gary has nothing to prove to anyone about fitness or ability but how can he be picked for Mexico if he is out of his club side?"

Stepney knows how tough it is staying on top as a goalkeeper. He had great seasons with Manchester United but won only one England cap. The magnificent Gordon Banks constantly kept Stepney out of the international team.



Germany 'afraid' of Danes

Oxford Irish

Oxford United stars JOHN ALDRIDGE and RAY HOUGHTON are both set to declare for the Republic of Ireland after their Manor Ground team-mate DAVID LANGAN discovered they have Irish grandparents.

Aldridge was born in Liverpool while Houghton is a Glaswegian!



Denmark manager Sepp Piontek has fired the first shots in a war of words against World Cup opponents West Germany.

Dark horses Denmark play Franz Beckenbauer's team on June 13th in Queretaro. And Piontek (left), who is German born, can't wait.

He said: "It's our dream to play Germany.

"In the past we've tried to play them but they didn't want to know.

"Now they have to meet us. For years Denmark weren't important enough for Germany!

"Now they respect us, but still don't want to play us for different reasons. Before we weren't good enough. Now, perhaps they're afraid."

Chelsea join Black chase

Chelsea have joined the queue of clubs chasing Aberdeen's brilliant young striker ERIC BLACK.

Manchester United, Arsenal and Spurs have all watched the Scottish Under-21 international this season and were particularly impressed by his two-goal performance in the Skol Cup Final triumph against Hibs in October.

Black has been plagued by a stomach muscle injury this season, but is still valued at £800,000 by Aberdeen boss ALEX FERGUSON.

That is the figure The Dons received from Spurs for STEVE ARCHIBALD and Ferguson rates Black just as highly.

Arsenal would like him to team up with CHARLIE NICHOLAS while United see him as a replacement for FRANK STAPLETON.

Chelsea, in spite of the success of KERRY DIXON and DAVID SPEEDIE, have been in the market for another striker all season but would not be able to meet Aberdeen's current asking price.



LATTEK SIGNS AGAIN

UDO LATTEK has changed his mind about quitting the coaching job with Bayern Munich.

Lattek was tipped to move into Italian or Spanish football or even retire altogether but he has been persuaded to remain with Bayern for another two years.

TOUGH COACH

RON SAUNDERS is getting tough with his players at relegation-threatened West Brom.

Saunders, always a disciplinarian, is insisting that all players will have to live in the Midlands.

This immediately put star forwards Mickey Thomas and Garth Crooks out on a limb.

Thomas lives at a north Wales seaside resort while Crooks lives in London and Saunders has told both of them they'll be put on transfer if they refuse to move house.

This firm edict will also cause West Brom's assistant manager Nobby Stiles to have another think about staying on.

Nobby has lived in Manchester all his life and says he has no intention of moving house.

ENGLAND FLY OUT EARLY

ENGLAND plan to leave for the World Cup in Mexico on May 6, and that's 25 days before the official opening ceremony.

This will be the longest preparation the Englishmen have ever enjoyed before a World Cup. The big question is . . . will skipper Bryan Robson be fit to travel on May 6?

His latest injury, another dislocated shoulder, will probably keep him out for several weeks. This is the fifth time the unfortunate Robson has been injured this season.

He previously suffered injuries to his hamstring, calf, ankle and shoulder.

In the past five months, Robson has started only six games for Manchester United and failed to last the 90 minutes in four of them.

CONTI JOINS SMITH

RICHARD SMITH, the injury specialist who, despite being English, lives and works in Amsterdam, is never short of football customers.

Smith achieved a miraculous cure for one of Bryan Robson's serious injuries and he is also treating Italy's World Cup star Bruno Conti

HALES HAS A STAKE

IF Charlton Athletic are promoted, Gillingham centre-forward Derek Hales will be laughing.

Hales, a former Charlton player, backed the team for promotion at the start of the season at 16 to 1.

He'll get \$1,700 back for his \$100 stake.

CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA has been delegated chief spy for Brazil in preparation for the World Cup, with a special briefing to assess the talent of all European teams.

National coach Tele Santana has also appointed Castilho, Nelsoninho and Zeze Moreira as scouts to keep an eye on other World Cup nations.

